

## Ie ne fay rien sans Gayeté

(Montaigne, Des livres)

Ex Libris
José Mindlin

# A <br> <br> VOYAGE 

 <br> <br> VOYAGE}

TO

## SOUTH AMERICA,

AND THE

## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE;

IN

HIS MAJESTY'S GUN BRIG
THE PROTECTOR,

COMMANDED BZ
LIEUT. SIR G. M. KEITH, BART.

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1810.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

## HENRY, LORD MULGRAVE,

FIRST LORD COMMISSIONER OF THE ADMIRALTY. \&c. \&c. \&c.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE INSCRIBED,<br>AS A TOKEN

of the gratitude and respeci of

THE AUTHOR.

# A. <br> VOYAGE, <br> fcc. \&.c. 

CHAP. I.
Sail from Spithead-Anchor at Weymouth -A False Alarm-Anchor at Falmouth - Description of that Port -Marine Fishing -The Flying Fish described-Arrive at the Island of Madeira.

$\mathrm{O}^{1}$
N Sunday the 25th day of August, 1805, we sailed from Spithead under sealed orders, in company with his majesty's sloop Espoir, and the Encounter gun-brig; but the wind proving unfavourable, we put into Swannage Bay on the 27 th, anchoring in six fathoms water, with the Needles Point bearing E. by S. and Peveril Point west.

The romantic forms of the high chalk cliffs, in the eastern part of this bay, contrasted with the low land of Peveril Point, the distant view of the Needles and the Isle of Wight, form together a group of scenery truly picturesque. The wind coming fair during the night, we weighed and made all sail down channel ; but this was of short continueance, for the next day it came round to S.W. which obliged us to stand in for Portland Roads. His majesty was then at Weymouth, with two of the royal yachts, and the Dinmond and Chiffonne frigates attending on him. Our surprise and concern will be therefore more readily conceived than expressed, on observing that both the yachts aud the frigates had their colours and pendants towered half-mast down; but our fears on account of our beloved sovereign, were relieved on our coming to anchor, when we learnt : hat what had so much alarmed us, was in consequence of the demise of his royal highness the duke of Gloucester.

We anchored in ten fathoms water, with Portland castle bearing W. by S. and W Ike church N. W. by N.

On the 301 h , the wind being moderate though contrary, we weighed at daylight, in company with the Espoir, leaving the Encounter laying to, apparently waiting for one of her boats.

We had a heavy gale of wind from the northward on the 1st of September, during which we lost sight of the Espoir, but fell in with her again on the 3d off the lizard, and sent our boat on board of her. On the 6th, we had a second gale from the S.W. heavier than the former, in which we again lost sight of the Espoir, and finding it continue, we bore up the next day for Falmouth harbour, and anchored in Carrick Roads in six fathoms water, St. Mawes' castle bearing S. E. by. S. Pendennis castle S. W. by W. and the Black Rock S. by W. half W.

Scarcely harl welet go the anchor, when we were agreeably surprised by the appearance of the Espoir', who also came to an anchor near us.

The following day being Saturday, we had an opportunity of visiting Falmouth market, which is most plentifully supplied from the adjacent country, and it is worthy of remark, that although this port is the depôt of all the foreign packets and their numerous passengers, and occasionally visited by many other ships, still the prices of the necessaries of life are far more reasonable than what is to be met with in any other sea-port on the S. W. coast of England.

There are many good houses in the town, but the streets are very irregular, narrow and ill paved; these inconveniences, however, are amply compensated by the safety and extent of the harbour, which is now furnished with moorings for the use of the channel fleet, when driven from their station off Brest by the severity of the S.W. gales.

Having completed our water here and received a supply of fresh beef, we weighed at daylight on the 8 th, and made sail to the S.W. in company with the Espoir, having now given up hopes of being rejoined by the Encounter, it being reported at Falmouth that she had run aground in working out of Portland Roads.

Nothing of importance occurred until the 12 th, when being in latitude $46^{\circ} 35^{\prime} \mathrm{N}$. and longitude $5^{\circ} 49^{\prime} \mathrm{W}$. we perceived at daylight on our lee-bow, a squadron consisting of four sail of the line and two frigates, standing to the westward with all sail set. The Espoir immediately made the private signal to them, which finding they did not answer, we had every reason to conclude them an enemy, and every reason for alarm on a comparison of our force.

After the signal had been flying an hour and a half, it was at length, to our great satisfaction, answered; upon which we run down to them, and spoke them.

The day following, as the Espoir sailed considerably better than we did, she took us in tow for the sake of greater expedition, in which unpleasant situation we continued until the 19th, when we were obliged to cast off, in a heavy gale of wind from the S. W.; but on the 21 st, the weather being moderate, she again took us in tow, and kept us so until the 24 th, when being in latitude $33^{\circ} 11^{\prime} \mathrm{N}$., and longitude $14^{\circ} 51^{\prime} \mathrm{W}$., the captain of the Espoir, considering limself near the land, cast us off, with orders to stand for it.

We did not however see it until 8 A . M. on Saturday the 28th, when it appeared as three islands, bearing W.N.W. the largest of which we made all sail for, on the supposition of its being Madeira, and the two smaller ones being the Desertas.

It happened very unfortunately, that there was not a person on board in the least acquainted with Madeira, nor was there any chart or sketch of it to be found. By 3 P. M. we were sufficiently near the island we were standing for, to perceive that it was totally uncultivated, and apparently uninhabited; and about the same time we saw the island of Madeira in the N.W. quarter, that which we had taken for it being the largest of the three Desertas.

About six in the evening we hove to off the town of Machico, and made the signal for a pilot, which was immediately answered, by a boat coming off with three gentlemen and four rowers, who left as one of the boat's crew to conduct us to Funchal.

On the morning of this day we caught five bonettas, being the only fish taken since leaving England, excepting several flying fish, which at times flew aboard during the night, in their endeavours to escape from their pursuers, the bonettas and dolphins, whose principal food they constitute.

Both these sorts of fish have been too often described, to require any thing farther on that head being said here ; but it has perhaps never been mentioned, that the flying fish is by far the most delicate eating of any that are to be found in the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans (the turtle excepted); but unfortunately there is no method of obtaining them hitherto discovered, except by the chance above-mentioned, which renders them equally scarce as good.
Light airs, calms, and strong westerly currents, prevented our getting into Funchal Roads before Tuesday, the 1st of

October, at noon, when we anchored in 45 fathoms water, and found laying here his majesty's ships Diaden, Raisonable, Belliqueux, Diomede, Malabar, Narcissus, Leda, Dart, Espoir, Doiphin, Chichester, and the Encounter (the latter having only arrived the same morning), with a numerons fleet of East and West Indiamen, and transports filled with stores and troops.

CHAP. II.
Account of Madeira-Discovered by the English-Pre-
sent State of the Island.
THE narrative of Robert à Machin is of considerable importance, as it records the first discovery of Madeira by an Englishman. The attention paid to it by Alcaforado, equerry to prince Henry, duke of Viseo, gives it every authority that can be wished; but yet considerable difficulties arise, respecting the exact date when this event took place. The reign of Edward III. extends from 1327 to 1377. Galvano, who is not always correct, dates the discovery, on the authority of the Chronicles of Castile, about 1344; Herbert places it in 1528 : both these dates give a longer imprisonment to Morales than is consistent with history. Probably the exact year was never recorded : even the relation of AIcaforado is full of subsequent interpolations, many of which are pointed out by Mr. Green (Astley's Collection, vol. i. p. 571). The reign of Edward III. might have been thus inserted, to give a greater authority to the adventures of our countrymen.

It was in the glorious reign of Edward 1II. of England, that Robert à Machin, a gentleman of the second degree of nobility, whose genius was only equalled by his gallantry and courage, beheld and loved the beautiful Anna D'Arfet: their attachment was mutual ; but the pleasing indulgence of ardent hope, gratified and betrayed their passion.
Some writers have preferred the name of Dorset, which a foreign orthograplyy might turn into D'Orset, and thence to D'Arfet. The pride of the illustrions family of D'Arfet rendered them insensible to the happiness of their daughter;
they preferred the indulgence of ambition to the voice of duty and love. 'The feudal tyranny of the age was friendly to their cruel design, and a warrant from the king seemed to justify the vanity of a parent. The consolation of an ingenuous mind supported Machin in confinement; its energy, thus compressed, sought only for redress; nor did it yield to despondency, when, on being delivered from prison, he found that the innocent cause of his persecution had been forced to marry a nobleman, who had carried her to his castle near Bristol. The friends of Machin made his misfortune their own, and one of them had the address to be introduced, under the character of a groom, to the service of the afflicted Anna. The prospect of the ocean, which, during their rides, extended before them, suggested or matured the plan of escape; and the probability of a secure asylum, was opposed to the dangers of a pussage to the coast of France.

Under pretence of receiving benefit from sea air, the victim of parental ambition was enabled, without delay, to clude suspicion; whilst Machin, in the successful completion of his anxious design, was equally insensible to the particular season of the year, or the portentous appearance of weather, which in calmer moments he would have duly observed.

The gradual rising of a gale of wind rendered the asto nished fugitives sensible of their rashmess: as the tempest approached, the thick darkness of the night completed the forror of the scene. In their confusion the intended port was inissed, or could not be reached; their vessel drove at the mercy of the winds; and in the morning they found themselves in the midst of an unknown ocean, without the skill that could determine their situation, or the experience that could direct their course. The dawn of twelve mornings returned without the sight of land: when at length, after a night of increased anxiety, as they eagerly watched the earliest streaks of day, an object loomed in the horizon: continual disappointment prodiaced a querulous despondency; whilst they alternately believed and doubted, the thick grey haze was dispersed by the rising sun, and a general burst of joy welcomed the certainty of land. A luxuriancy of trees was soon visible, to whose appearance they were utter strangers; and the beautiful plumage of unknown birds, who came in flocks from the island, gave at first the semblance of a dream to their astonishing deliverance.

The boat being hoisted out to examine the coast, returned with a favourable account. Machin and bis friends accomKEITH.]
panied their trembling charge, leaving the rest to secure the vessel. The wilderness of the adjacent country possessed additional charms to men escaped from destruction; and the rich scenery of Madeira was again beheld, after a lapse of many centuries, by the cyes of Europeans.

It was not only visited by the Romans, but probably also by the Normans, those skilful navigators, of whose discoveries we know so little; who preceded the Portuguese, and followed the Arabians, in nautical skill.

An opening in the extensive woods, that was encircled with laurels and flowering shrubs, presented a delightful retreat; a venerable tree, the growth of ages, offered, on an adjoining eminence, its welcome shade; and the first moments of liberty were employed in forming a romantic residence, with the abundant materials supplied by nature.

Curiosity to explore their new discovery was increased by the novelty of every object they beheld : this varied occupation continued for three days, until the survey was interrupted by an alarming hurvicane, that came on during the night, and rendered them extremely anxious for their conspanions who were on board. The ensuing morning destroyed every prospect of happiness: they in vain sought for the vessel, which had drove from her moorings, and was wrecked on the coast of Morocco; where, as it afterwards appeared, all on board were inmediately seized as slaves, and sent to prison.

The aflicted Machin found this last trial too severe for his disconsolate companion; her tender mind, overcome by the scenes she had endured, needed the conscious sense of strict discharge of duty to renew its strength. From the moment it was reported that the vessel could not be found, she became dumb with grief, expired after a few days of silent despair, and was soon fullowed by her inconsolable lover.

The companions of Machin, forgetting their own situation, were entirely occupied in watching over their emaciated friend; but all attempts to administer consolation were fruitless. On the fifth day they received his parting breath, and earnest injunction, that they would place his body in the same grave under the venerable tree, which, amidst an agony of tears, they had so lately made for the unfortunate victim of his temerity: where the altar had been raised to celebrate their deliverance, would now mark their untimely tomb. This painful duty being performed, they fixed a large wooden cross over the grave, with the inscription
which Machin had composed to record their melancholy ade ventures, and to request that if any Christian should hercafter visit the spot, they would in the same place build a church, and dedicate it to Christ ;-

> "Had mark'd the spot, or or gazd upon humen eye
> "Oa the grave
> "Of the unfortunate; but for the voice
> "Of enterprise that spoke from Sagre's towers;
> "Through ocean's periks, storms, and unknown wastes, "Speed we to Asia!"

Having thus obeyed the dictates of friendship, they fitted out the boat, which from their first landing had been kept ashore. Their intention was to return, if possible, to England ; but either owing to want of skill, to the currents, or unfavourable weather, they were driven on the same coast with their shipmates, and joined them in their Moorish prison.

The island is of a triangular form, and about forty leagues in circumference : it was taken possession of by the Portuguese in the year 1457.

They set fire to the forests, which burned for a considerable time, and gave the soil that degree of fertility which it boasts of at present; indeed, were it properly cultivated, Madeira might be termed the garden of the world. The scorching heat of summer, and the icy chill of winter, are here equally unknown; but spring and autumn reign together, and produce flowers and fruit throughout the year. It abounds in every kind of tropical and European fruits, as oranges, lemons of a prodigions size, bananas, citrons, peaches, figs, plums, and strawberries, that grow wild in the mountains, with astonishing profusion; grapes which are as large as our common plums, and remarkable for their peculiar flavour. The oranges are of a sanguine red: this species is produced from the common orange bud, engrafted on the pomegranate stock. There is likewise a kind of pear found here, not bigger than a walnut, and very crisp. The sugar-cane also is cultivated with success, though not in any considerable quantity. The cedar tree is found in great abundance : it is extremely beautiful ; most of the ceilings and furniture at Madera are made of that wood, which yields a very fragrant smell. The dragon tree is a native of this island. Flowers nursed in the English green-houses, grow wild here in the fields; the hedges are mostly formed of myrtles, roses, jessamine, and honeysuckle, in everlast-
ing blossom ; while the larkspur, the feur-de-lis, the lupin, \&e. spring up spontaneously in the meadows. There are very few reptiles to be seen in the island; the lizard is the most common.

Canary birds and goldfinches are found in the mountains; of the former, unmbers are sent every year to England. But Madeira is principally celebrated for its wine, which it produces in great quantities, and which kecps best in the hottest climate, ander the torrid zone; for this reason the inhabitants of the West India islands that can afford it, drink littie else; and the Madeira wine that is brought to England, is thought to be worth little, unless it has been a voyage to the East or West Indies. 'This island is well watered and peopied, and the inhabitants are grood-natured, but great voluptuaries.

Funchal, the capital of the island, is siluated round a bay, on the gentle ascent of the first hill, in form of an amphitheatie. Its public and private buildings, are in general, entirely white. On the sea side are several batteries. An old castle, which commands the road, stands on the top of a steep black rock, surrounded by the sea at high water, and called by the English, Loo Rock.

On a neighbouring eminence above the town is another, called St. John's castle. The hills beyond the town are coveycd with vineyards, enclosures, plantations, and groves, interspersed with country houses and churches. The streets are narrow, ill paved, and dirty; the houses are built of freestone or brick, but they are dark; and only a few of the best, belonging to the English merchants or the principal inhabitants, are provided with glass windows: all the others have a kind of lattice-work in their stead, which hangs on hinges, and may be lifted up occasionally.

The best anchorage in Funchal Roads is with the following bearings: The Western Point W. by N.; the Loo Rock N. by W. ; the Brazen Head E. by S.; the Desertas, from E. to S. E., about nine leagues distant.

## CHAP. III.

## Leave Madcira- A Seaman diotoned-A Ship runs a-boarld of us-Cross the Equator-Ludicrous Ceremony on that

 Occasion.WE remained here until the Sd at day-light, when we weigbed in company with the whole fleet; but in working out of the roads with a light air, we drifted on board one of the transports, owing to the westerly current before mentioned; but the boats of the fleet coming to our assistance, we were soon towed clear of her, withont sustaining any damage.

Owing perhaps to the very large flect assembled here, we found stock of every description uncommonly scarce and dear; even fruit not excepted.

On the 4 th the commodore hoisted his broad pendant, on which occasion he was saluted by all the men of war with thirteen guns each, and cheered by the greater part of the merchantmen.

On Sunday the 6th, performed divine service; and in the evening the ficet for the W est Indies, under convoy of the Malabar and Dart, parted company.

On the 9th, served out fishing-hooks and lines to the ship's company, but since leaving Madeira caught nothing except a few flying-fish.

Nothing material occurred until the 13th at two in the morning, when James Turner, one of the best mon and best seamen in the brig, in reaching at a flying-fish in the fore chains, lost his balance, fell overboard, and was unfortunately drowned; the ship then running six miles per hour, and the darkness of the night, rendering every cxertion to save him aborive.

This day performed divine service. At eight A. M. on the morning of the 25 th , being on a wind upon the starboard tack, under courses, topsails, and jib, and groing about four miles an hour, the IBritannia East Indiaman being then upon the larboard tack, under the same sail, and on our larboard bow, persisted in keeping his wind, and in endeavouring to weather us, although we repeatedly hailed and waved to him, desiring him to bear up and put his helm a-port, which finding that he would not do, we were compelled to put our helm a-starboard, and bear up, con-
trary to all rules of the service, in order to avoid the inminent dasiger of being run down; but before we could clear his lec-quarter by so doing, our bowsprit was carried away by his mizen chains.

It were superlluous to add a single remark upon this transaction, as every seaman can, and will, make the proper comneat.

Our distress was immediately observed by the commodore, who sent the Raisonable to our assistance, and by two in the affernoon we were ready to make sail agrait, having rigged out a spare topmast as a jury bowsprit, and set the jib upon it, which was found to answer very well, and that we could keep company with the fleet, although the fore-top-gallant mast was down, and we were always obliged to keep a reef in the fore-topsail for the security of the furemast.

On Sunday the 271 h , performed divine service.
On'Thursday the SIst of October, we crossed the Equator, in longitude $33^{\circ} 26^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$. from London, and on this occasion the ancient custom of ducking and shaving was duly observed, there being no fewer than thirty-five persons on board, ont of forty-six, who had never been upon the line before.

The mode of performing this ceremony, is by a grotesque Neptune and Amphitrite, with their attendants, placing the novice on a plank, laid across a large tub filled with water; his face is then latherd with a mixture of tar, paint, grease, and filth; and after a few rough scrapes with a piece of iron hoop, the plank is withdrawn, he falls into the tuh, and is soused wilh about twenty buckets full of water thrown over him.

## CHAP. IV.

Discover a Dangerous Shoal-Its Situation describedAlalie the Cousi of Brazil-Remarlis on the preiailing Currents-Singuilar Fishing Boals-Appearance of the Land.

AT noon, on Saturday the 21 of November, we discovered a sand bank from the mast-head, bearing S. by W.
nbout three leagnes distant; it appeared to be very level, but considerably above the surface of the sea, and the dry part apparently about half a mile in length : the sea broke only on the eastern end of the bank, and in that direction the breakers extended to the verge of the horizon.

A black spot was visible on the north side of the bank, but whether it was a small rock, or whether the wreck of some unfortunate vessel, we were not near enough to distinguish with any degree of certainty.

Our making this shoal in the day time was truly providential; as from the number of the fleet, and other circumstances, had we fell in with it in the night time, many of them must have been totally lost upon it.

Deduced from the observation at noon, this shoal lays in latitude $3^{\circ} 51^{\prime} \mathrm{S}$. and longitude $24^{\circ} 09^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W}^{\prime}$. from London.

The above shoal is very accurately laid down in a general chart of the Atlantic and Southern Oceans, published by 1 aurie and Whitlle, Fleet Street, London, and therein named "Roccas;" the nearest to it being called a shoal "from Pcinentel;" which is laid down in latitude $4^{\circ} 35^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{S}$. and longitude $93^{\circ} 10^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W}$. from London, and which differs so very materially in position from the former, as to prevent their being ever confounded.

The following day being Sunday, we performed divine service, and in the aftemoon bent the cables, on account of our approach to the Brazilian coast. On Monday the 4th, at 7 A. M. saw the land from the mast-lead, and at noon it extended from S. W. by W. to N.W. by W. distant between five or six leagues, very uneven and hilly, interspersed with many sandy cliffs and openings; latitude at noon $5^{\circ} 57^{\prime} \mathrm{S}$.

Many albicores and bonettas were now seen about the ship, hut toonr mortification we fook none.

We have already had occasion to mention the effects of a westely current at the Island of Madeira, and now think it proper to add, for the benefit of future navigators, that this current is more extensive in its limits, and ruas with greater velocity than is generally supposed or allowed for.

From the Cape of Good Hope, it rums in a N.W. direction lowards Cape Augustine in South America, and then rums still more westerly, accordiag to the direction of the coast, towards thic Carribbean Sea, the Bay of Honduras, and the Gulph of Mexico: from which it finds a passage through the Gulph of Florida.

A daily allowance is therefore necessary to be made for it,
and no opportunity of trying its rate should be neglected; to enforce the necessity of which, it need only be noticed, that from the want of such opportunity when we made the land, the longitude by dead reckoning was no less than $3^{\circ} 30^{\prime}$ a-stern of the ship; a difference which, had there been no means of correcting it by celestial observations, might have produced the most fatal consequences.

On the 5 th, we were surprized at the appearance of three very singular boats, resembling rafts, with three men on each, seemingly fishing, and at least six leagues distant from the shore; but we were not near enough to speak them.

At noon, the land bore from S.W. to W. N.W. distant five or six leagues, hilly and uneven, with large trees and many openings, latitude $6^{\circ} 16^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{S}$.

On Wednesday the 6th, at noon, the land bore from S.W. by S. to N.W. by W. distant about six leagues, having much the same appearance as yesterday, with a large column of smoke in one part. The latitude at noon $7^{\circ} 04^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{S}$. with light breezes from the S. E.; our progress being much retarded by falling in with the land so far to the northward, and being obliged to turn to windward against the trade wind, to enable us to weather Cape St. Augustine.

## CHAP. V.

## Arrival at the Bay of All Saints; and Description of the city of Saluador.

ON Thursday the 7th, in the morning, we passed the town of Pernambuco, and at noon were in latitude $8^{\circ} 16^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{S}$. The wind veered round to the N. E. on Friday the 8th, and at noon there was no land in sight. Steered S. W. latitudé $10^{\circ} 8^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{S}$.
On Sunday the 10tb, at day-light, we were off Cape Antonis; which forms the N. E. point of the Bay of All Saints, and lays in latitude $12^{\circ} 56^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{S}$. and longitude $38^{\circ} 47^{\prime} \mathrm{W}$. from London: the commodore and three of the convoy being the only ships in sight, we stood into the bay by his order, and brought out a pilot for him; then stood in again
in company with him, and at noon came to an anchor in seven fathoms, and moored, Cape Antonis bearing S. by W. the fort E. by S., and the western point of the bay S. W. by S.

The appearance of the Bay of All Saints and the City of Salvador from the anchorage is very beautiful, and thoturh certainly inferior to the Bay of Naples, is perhaps not far short of the view of Constantinople from the harbour, and in several respects resembles it on a smaller scale.

The moment a person lands, however, the deception vanishes, for there never was a place of equal extent and importance, so dirty, miserable, and disgusting, in every sense of the word.

The house inhabited by the governor (and dignified with the name of a palace), forms one side of a small square; the other being occurpied by the common jail, which, with the wretches immured in it, must of course meet his cye fitty times in a day: so much for prospect and situation. In the streets you meet none except soldiers and slaves, with here and there a solitary friar, or a Portuguese gentleman borne in his palanquin, for as to the ladies without the walls of their houses, they are absolutely invisible.

The Portuguese, with their accustomed avarice, on the arrival of the fleet trebled the price of every article in their markets, from an orange to a pipe of wine ; and not satisfied with this extortion, they unanimously refused to receive any government bills whatever, unless at the enormous discount of 20 per cent. though payable ten days after sight; and at this rate, including the repairs, stores, and provisions, for the men of war and troops, with private purchases, they must have received at the lowest estimate, $150,000 l$. sterling.

In the Bay of All Saints, which is very safe and capacious, we observed a regular and considerable tide, which at the spring tides, runs nearly three miles per hour.

Within four days after our arrival, the remainder of the convoy came in, excepting the Britannia East lridia ship, the King George artillery transport, and the Jack brig.

The two former were unfortunately wrecked upon the shoal seen on the $2 d$ of this month; having with the other Indiamen been defached from the fleet, under convoy of the Ledit; but the crevs of both ships were saved, with the exception of general Yorke and one scaman.

The following particulars relative to this very melancholy event, were collected from the survivors, and from the officers of the Leda frigate, which narrowly escaped sharing the same fate.

KEITH.]

CHAP. VI.


#### Abstract

Dangerous Siluation of the Leda Frigate-Interesting Parliculars of the Loss of the Britannia East Indiaman, und the King George Transport, upon the Roccas -Deullh of Gieneral Yorlie.


AT half past three in the morning of the 1st of November, 1805 , the officer of the watch on board the Leda, who had been previously cantioned by the captain to look well out for rucks, \&c. went down, and acquainted him that breakers were seen a-head. On the captain going on deck, and perceiving the ship among breakers, he ordered her to be put about, and as she had entered S. W., to stand out N. E.; but no sooner had she got round, than a man on the forecastle cried out, "Land a-head, high and dry!" The helm was instantly put up-the frigate fortunately wore quick, and cleared the dangers; but the boats over the stern, in veering the ship, actually hung over the rocks. The sigual gun for the convoy to tack, was fired, and afterwards several others, to warn the convoy of the danger. The quarter-master, when trying the soundings, found only five fathoms, but had the presence of mind to sing out "Seven!" The safety of the Leda was evidently owing to the temperate and collected conduct of the captain, officers, and crew. Signal guns were also heard in the Leda from other ships in the convoy; and when the day dawned, their fears for the safety of others were unhappily realized, by finding that one ship (the King George) had got among the rocks; and the Britannia East India ship, when on the point of lacking, having heard the Leda's guns, was run foul of by a lirge Fast Indiaman (the Streathan) : the bowsprif and fore-topmast of the Britaunia were carried away, and leer bows partly siove in, when she became unmanageable, and drifted almost instantly on a rock, where she bung by the stern. The mizen-mast being cut away, she in a quarter of an hour cleared herself from the rock, with the loss of her rudder, and a serious leak; which, however, the captain of the Britamia was in such hopes to keep under, that he was in the act of sending of his boats to the relief of the King George, when the water was found to gain fast and irresistibly. A signal was then made by the ensign (union reversed), of distress. The Europe, Comet, and Veruna
(Indiamen), being then near, sent their boats, and brought off all her crew, and the East India recruits on board, being nearly 400 persons, except one man, who would not be saved, either from madness or inebriety. I'his man bad got a cutlass, by which he prevented any person from forcing him away, and as he flourished it, swaggered over the treasure which had been got upon the quarter-deck, and swore vehemently, that as he had been all his life a poor man, he would now go out of the world gloriously rich! loading himself at the same time with dollars from the chests that had been broken open. Out of one hundred and sixty chests of dollars, only twelve could be brought away; so suddenly did the ship go down after the leak increased. The Britannia had drifted about seven miles from the rocks, and sunk in deep water.

The Leda frigate was employed during this time in sending her boats to the rocks, to save the people they discovered on a sandy island among those rocks, and so completely sur. rounded by them, that they could only find one opening, or small cove, for the boats to approach. From this they took off the crew of the King George transport, and the artillery troops that had been embarked therein, except general Yorke, of the Royal Artillery, who was the only person drowned in attempting to get on shore, and one artilleryman, who had been seen safe on shore after the ship struck, and was supposed to have found some spirits, got drunk, and fell from the rocks, as he could no where be found on them.

The King George run on shore almost instantly, as some person called out, "Breakers a-head!" a little before four o'clock in the morning, after the moon had set. The darkness, and the spray of the breakers, prevented thicir secing any spot on which they could place a hope of safety.

They, however, as soon as they could get the first gun off, which had got its charge somewhat wet or damp, fired several guns of distress, hoisted their hoats out mider the lee, and sent them off from the ship, to discover if there was any chance of a place to save themselves, waiting with good order for day. At dawn they discovererl at some little distance, one place larger than the other rocks, high and dry. The boats, except the jolly-boat, whose crew had secured their own safety by pulling to another ship, returning about the same time, and stating, that if all hands quitted the ship. (which must soon go to pieces), and get on the small rochs nearly under the spritsail yard, the boats could take them from thence to the larger one; which was immediately.
set about, sending the women and children among the first, by slinging them under the arms with a rope, and anotber rope to haul them to the rock. The general, being the oldest man on board, they wished to do the same with him, which he indignantly refused: he therefore went to the spritsail yard, to get on the roci like others, and most probably he found this, to a landsman, a task of more dilficulty than he was aware of; and one of the gunners of his corps, perceiving his situation, again expressed a wish to sling him with a rope, to ensure bis safety, which, however, he would not suffer: he some time after remained on the yard, unresolved to venture down, which obliged the few remaining behind him to let themselves down from the jib-boom; and at last the grenera! either let himself down, or lost his hold, fell just within the surf, had not strength to hold by the rock against the returning wave, and disappeared under the ship's bow for ever!

The loss of the general seems the more unfortunate, as being the only individual who perished; even a woman, who had been delivered of a child not more than three or four hours, was removed from her bed with her infant, and were both taken on board the Leda in safety, notwithstanding her apparent danger.

A man also who had broken his leg two days before, was got safe on shore, without injuring the new-set limb. About 8 A. M. or soon after, the ship went to pieces, and neither the officers, or any other person, could save any effects. Some caslis were washed on shore after the ship broke up. On the shore were three anchors laid across each other, without stocks, and near them part of the wreck of a large ship; both of which appeared as if they had been there a very long time: they also saw the skeleton of a large turtle; found no water; but saw several spots of coarse rushes growing on the low parts of the sandy island.

## CHAP. VII.

Sail for Rio Janciro - Arvival there-Description of that City and the Environs-Particular Accound of the Diamond Nines.

HIVING completed our water and provisions, and got in a new bowsprit, we sailed on Monday the 95 th of November, with dispatches for Rio Janeiro, leaving all the fleet nearly ready for sea.

Nothing worthy of remark occurred on the passage until Sunday the 1st of Deceniber, when we made Cape Frio; but being deceived by their great similarity, were nearly embayed in consequence of mistaking the istand of Dancoran for the above cape. On Monday the Qd, we were in latitude $25^{\circ} 32^{\prime \prime}$ Sonth, the high land over Rio Janciro bearing N. W. by W. about ten or twelve leagues distant.

On Tuesday the 3d, at five in the afternoon, we entered the harbour of Ris Janciro, and were hailed from the fort of Santa Cruz, desiring us to anchor under the guns of the fort, which mandate, about ten minutes after, was enforced by a gun. We came to in twelve fathoms, with the following bearings : Santa Cruz S. S. E.; Sugar Loaf S.S.W.; Isle of Cobras N. W.

Rio de Janciro, a city of South Americi, capital of a jurisdiction, and the present capital of Brazil, situated on a river of the same name, lies in latitude $22^{\circ} 54^{\prime}$ south, and longitude $42^{\circ} 49^{\prime}$ West from Greenwich.

Rio de Janeiro, or the River of Januarius, was probably so called from its having been discovered on the feast of that saint ; and the town, which is the capital of the Portugueso dominions in America, derives its name from the river, which, indeed, is rather an arm of the sea, for it does not appear to receive any considerable stream of fresh water: it stands on a plain, close to the shore, on the west side of the bay, at the foot of several high mountains. It is tolerably well designed and built: the houses in general are of stone, and two stories bigh, every house having, after the manner of the Portuguese, a verandah. Its circuit, captain Cook estimated at about three miles; for it appears to be cqual in size to the largest county towns in England. The streets are straight, and of a convenient breadth, intersecting each
other at right angles; the greater part, however, lie in a line with the citadel, called St. Sebastian, which stands on the top of a hill that commands the town. It is supplied with water from the neighbouring hills, by an aqueduct, which is raised upon two stories of arches, and is said in some places to be at a great height from the ground, from which the water is conveyed by pipes into a fountain in the great square that exactly fronts the viceroy's palace. The water a! this fountain, however, is so bad, that captain Gook's company, who had been two months at sea confined to that in casiss, which was almost always foul, could not drin's it with pleasure. Vhater of a better quality is laid into some other parts of the town. The churches are very fine; and theve is more religious parade in this place, than it any of the popish countries in Europe; there is a procession of some parish every day, with varions insignia, all splendid and costly ia the highest dewre. They beer money, and say prayers in great form at the comer of every street. The govermment here, as to its form, is mixed; it is notwithstanding very despotic in fact; it consists of the viceroy, the governor of the town, and a council. Without the cemsent of this conncil, in which the viceroy has a casting vote, nos judicial act should be performed, yet both the viceroy and egovemor freguently commit persons to prison at their own pleasure, athl sometimes send them to lisbon, without acgmaining their friends or family with what $i_{i}$ laid to their charge, or where they may be found. 'lo restrain the people from travelling into the country, and getting into any district where golll and diamonds may be fetend, of beth which there is mach more than the government can ehberwise secure, certam bounds are prescribed them at the discretion of the vieeroy, somethes at a few, aml sometimes at many miles distance from the city. The mbabitants, who are very mmmerons, consist of Portuguese, nerroes, and Indians, the original natives of the country. Wibe township of Rin, which is but as small part of the cagitanea or province, is said to contain 37,000 white persons, and 629.000 blacks, many of whom are free, making together 666,000 . The miliary establishment here consists of twelve regiments of regular troops, six of which are Portugenese, and six creotes, and twelve oher regiments of proviacial militis. It is generally allowed, that the women hoth of the Spanish and Portnguese settlements in South America, make less semple of aranting personal favours, than those of any other civilized comntly in the worth.

Murders are frequently committed here; but the clurchess afford an asylum to the criminal. 'he comntry round the town is beantiful in the highest degree, the widest spors being varied with a greater laxuriance of thowers, both as to number and beauty, than the best gardens in lingland. Upon the trees and bushes sit an almost condess varicty of birds, especially small ones, many of them covered with the most clegant planage, among which was the hamming bird. Of insects too there was a great variety, atad some of them very beatiful; but they were much more nimble than those of Europe, especially the buttetlies, most of which flew near the tops of the trees, and were therefore very difficalt to be callght, except when the sea breeze blew fresh, which kept them ncarer to the ground.

There is the appearance of but little cultivation, the greater part of the land is wholly uncultivated, and very little care and labour seem to have been bestowed npon the rest; there are, inded, littie patches of gardens, in which many kinds of Lumopean garden-stuff are produced, particularly cabbages, pease, beans, kidney-beans, lurnips, ami white radishes, but all much inferior to owr own: Watetmelons and pine apples are also produced in these spoots, and they are the only fruits we saw cultivated, though the country produces musk-melons, oranges, lemons, sweet lemons, citrons, plantains, banamas, mangos, mamane apples, itcajou or cashou apples, and muts, jamboira of two himits, one of which bears a small black friut, cocoa nuts, palm muts of two kinds, one long, the other round, and patm berries; of these fruits the water-melons and oranges are the best in their kind: the pine apples are much inferior to those in England, they are indeed more juicy and sweet, but have no flavour. The melous are mealy and insipid, but the water-melons are excellent; they have a flavour, at least a degree of acidity, which the Eaglish have not: there ate also several species of the prickle pear, and some European fruits, particularly the apple and peach, bonts which ivere mealy and insipid. In these gardens also grow yans and manioc, which in the IV est ludies is called cassada or cassava. The soil, thongh it produces pobacco and sugar, will not produce brearl corn : so that the people here have no wheat-flour but what is brought from Portugal, and sold at the rate of is a ponnd, lhough it is gemerally spoiled by being heated in its passare. As to manufactures, captain Cook neither sall nor heard of any, except that of colton hammocts, in which people are carried about hore as they
are with us in sedan chairs; and these are principally, if not wholly, fabricated by the Indians. The riehes of the place consist chiefly in the mines, which lie far up the country. Much gold is certainly brought from these mines, but at an expence of life that must stike every man to whom custom has not made it samiliar with horror: no less than 40,000 negroes are annnally inporited on the king's account, to work the mines. The mines which are called General, are nearest to the city, being about 925 miles distant. They arnually bring unto the fing for his fifth part at least 112 arrobas of grold; in 1762 they brongit in 119 . Under the grovermment of the Gencrai Mines, are comprehended those of Rio das Mortes, of Sabara, and of Sero Frio. The last place, besides gold, produces all the diamonds that come from the Brazils: they are in the bed of a river, which is led aside, in order afterwards to separate the diamonds, topazes, chrysolites, and other stones of inferior goodness, from the pebbles among which they lie. All these stones, diamonds excepted, are not contraband, they belong to the possessors of the mines; but they are obliged to give a very exact account of the diamonds they find, ank? to put them inte the hands of a surveyor whom the king appoints for this purpose: the surveyor immediately deposits them in a little casket covered with plates of iron, and locked up by three locks; he has one of the keys, the viceroy another, and the provador de hazienda reale, the third. This casket is enclosed in another, on which are the seals of the three persons above mentioned, and which contains the three keys to the first. The viceroy is not allowed to view its contents; he only places the whole in a third cotfer, which he sends to Lision, after putting his seal on it. It is opened in the king's presence, he chooses the diamonds which he likes out of it, and pays their price to the possessors of the mines, according to a tiriff settled in their chater. The possessors of the mines pay the value of a Spanish piastre or dollar per day, to his most faithful majesify for every slave sent out to seek diamonds: the number of these slaves amounts to eight hundred. Of all the contrahand trades, that of diamonds is most severely panished. fif the smuggler is poor, he loses his life; if his riches are sufficient to satisty what the law exacts, besidea the confiseation of the diamonds he is condemned to pay double their valne, to be imprisoned for one year, and then exiled for life to the coast of Africa. Notwithstanding this severity, the smuggling trade with diamonds, even of the most bears. tift!l hini, is very estensive, so great is the hope and facility
of hiding them, on account of the little room they take up, All the gold which is got out of the mines cannot be sent to Rio Janciro, without being previously brought into the houses established in each district where the part belonging to the crown is taken. What belongs to private persons is returned to them in wedges, with their weight, their number, and the king's arms stamped upon them. All this goidd is assayed by a person appointed for that purpose; and on each wedge or ingot the alloy of the gold is marked, that it may afterwards be easy to bring them all to the same alloy for the coinage. These ingois belonging to private persons are registered in the office of Prayburia, ninety miles from Rio Janeiro.
At this place is a captain, a lieutenant, and fifty men; there the tax of one-6ifth part is paid, and further, a polltax of a real and a half per head of men, cattle, and beasts of burden. One half of the produce of this tax goes to the king, and the other is divided among the detachment, according to their rank. As it is impossible to come back from the mines without passing by this station, the soldiers always stop the passengers, and search them with the utmost rigour.
The private people are then obliged to bring all the ingots of gold which fall to their share, to the mines at Rio Janeiro, where they get the value of it in cash; this commonly consists of demi-doubloons, worth eight Spanish dollars. Upon each demi-doubloon the king gets a piastre or dollar for the alloy, and for the coinage. The mint at Rin Janeiro is one of the finest buildings existing: it is furnished with all the conveniences necessary towards working with the greatest expedition. As the gold comes from the mines at the time that the ficets come from Portugal, the coinage must be accelerated, and indeed they coin there with amazing quickness. The arrival of these fleets, especially of that from Lisbon, renders the commerce flourishing: the fleet from Oporto is laden only with wines, brandy, vinegar, victuals, and some coarse cloth, manufactured in and about that town.

As soon as the fleets arrive, all the goods they bring are conveyed to the custom-honse, where they pay a duty of ten per cent. to the king. It must be observed, ihat the communication between the colony of Saint Sacramento and Buenos Ayres, being entirely cut off at present, that duty must be corsiderably lessened; for the greatest part of the most precious mercliandizes which arrived from Europe, was
sent from Rio Janciro to that colony, from whence they wero sinuggled through Buenos Ayres to Peru and Cbili; and this contraband trade was worth a million and a half of piastres annually to the Portuguese: in short, the mines of the Brazils produce no silver, and all that the Portuguese got came from the smuggling trade. The negro trade was another immense object.

The loss which the almost entire suppression of this branch of contraband trade occasions, cannot be calculated: this branch alone employed at least thirty coasting vessels between the Brazils and the river La Plata. All the expences of the king of Portugal at Rio Janeiro, for the payment of the troops and civil officers, the carrying on of the mines, keeping the public buildings in repair, and refitting of ships, amount to about 600,000 piastres; not mentioning the expence he must be at in constructing ships of the line and frigates, lately begun here. The amount of the king's revenue, taken at a medium, may be the fifth of 150 arrobas of gold, 1,125,000 dollars; duty on diamonds, 240,000; duty on roinage, 100,000 ; ten per cent. customs, 350,000 ; two and a half per cent. free gift, 87,000 ; poll-tax, sale of offices, and other products of the mines, 225,000 ; duty on negroes, 110,000 ; duty on train oil, salt, soap, and the tenth on provisions, 130,000 : in the whole $2,667,000$ dollars. From which, if you deduct the expences, the whole of the king of Portugal's revenues from Rio Janeiro, amount to about 450,000 . sterling. The harbour of Rio Janeiro is situated West by North eighteen leagues from Cape Frio, and may be known by a remarkable hill, in the form of a sugar loaf, at the west point of the bay; but as all the coast is very high, and rises in many peaks, the entrance of this harbour may be more certainly distinguished by the islands that lie before it; one of which, called Rodonda, is high and round, like a haystacl, and lies at the distance of seven miles from the entrance of the bay, in the direction of Sonth by West ; but the first islancis which are met with coming from the cast of Cape Frio, are two that have rocky appearances, lying near to each other, and at the distance of about four miles from the shore. There are also, it the distance of nine miles to the westward of these, two other islands which lie ncar to each other, a little without the bay on the east side, and very near the shore. This harbour is certainly a good one, the entrance, indeed, is not wide, but the sea breeze, which blows every day from ten or twelve o'clock till sunser, malies it easy for any ship to go in before the wind, and
it grows wider as the town is approached, so that abreast of it there is room for the largest fleet, in five or six fathoms water, with an oozy bottom. At the narrow part, the entrance is defended by two forts. The river, and indeed the whole coast, abounds with a great variety of fish. Though the climate is hot, the situation of this place is certainly wholesome. "Upon the whole," says captain Cook, "Rio de Janeiro is a very grood place for ships to put in at that want refreshment; the harbour is safe and commodious; and provisions, except wheaten-bread and flour, may be casily procured: as a succedaneum for bread, there are yams and casada in plenty; bief both fresh and jerked, may be bought at about two-pence farthing a pound, though it is very lean. Mutton is scarcely to be procured, and hogs and poultry are dear: of garden-stuff and fruit there is abundance, of which however, none can be preserved at sea but the pumkin. Rum, sugar, and molasses, all excellent in their kiud, may be had at a reasonable price; tubacco also is cheap, but it is not good.

Here is a yard for building shipping, and a small hulk to heave down by, for, as the tide never rises above six or seven feet, there is no other way of coming at a ship's bottom.

## CHAP. VIII.

Leave Rio Janciro-An unexpected Rencontie with a Whate-Account of that Fish, und the various Modes of catching it-Rise and Progress of the Fishery-Fall in with the Wreck of a Ship.

THE commander immediately waited on the viceroy, and having completed our water, we sailed again the following day. On Thursday the 5 th, caught a fine dolphin. Until Saturday the 21st nothing remarkable hitppened; but being then in latitude $36^{\circ} 38^{\prime}$ South, and longitude $20^{\circ} 14^{\prime}$ West from London, about 3 P. M. every person on board was alarmed by a sudden and violent shock, which was almost im. mediately followed by a second. A man who was then looking out on the forecastle called out, "a rock under the bows!"

This rock, however, very fortunately for all of us, proved to be a large whate, who was probably asleep on the surface when the brig struck him; and so much stunned from the effects of the first blow, that he could not disengage bimself before he received a sceond stroke. As he passed astern, and in leeward, he raised himself partly out of the water, making a noise similar to an elephant, when enraged. Whales and porpoises were now seen daily.

Haviing had occasion to mention a very singular instance of the strength and magnitude of a fish not generally known; it is hoped that the following account of it, and the mode of catching it, may afford information to some readers, and entertaimment to many.
The whate is said sometimes to grow to the length of a lumired feet; though it is commonly found from forty to seventy. The eyes are remarkably small; but the head is of a pradigions size, forming nearly one-third of the animal; and when the jaws are extended, the creature exposes a most enormous and terrific cavity; in which is placed a tongue eighteen or twenty feet in length; and capable of yielding five or six barrels of oil. A doubte pipe is situated on the hearl, through which the whale spouts water to a great height in the air.

It is supposed to feed upon the different kinds of marine worms, and likewise on sea-weeds. For the purpose of collecting, these different sorts of nourishment, there is in the upper jaw, a number of horned lamina, split into small divisions, which is that strong and pliant substance commonly lnown by the name of whalebone. There are about three hundred and fifty of these lamine on each side of the jaw ; five hundred of which are long enough for use.

These animals, though all of them are inoffensive, and one species of them absolutely toothless, have, notwithstanding, their enemies; for independent of man, who excited by avarice, ventures his life in the pursuit, they have a terrible foe to contend with in the sword-fish, which torments them without mercy. Mr. Anderson assures us, that at the sight of this litle animal the whale seems agitated in an extraordinary manner, leaping from the water as if with affright; wherever it appears the whale perceives it at a distance, and flies from it in the opposite direction.
"I have been myself," says Mr. Anderson, "a spectator of their terrible encounter. The whale has no instrument of defence, except the tail : with that it endeavours to strike the enemy; and a single blow taking place would effiectually de-
stroy its adversary; but the sword-fish is as active as the other is strong, and easily avoids the stroke: then bounding into the air, it falls upon its great subjacent enemy, and eadeavours to pierce it with its pointed beak.
${ }^{6}$ The surrounding sea is seendyed with bloo', proceeding from the wounds of the whale, while the enormous animal vainly erdeavours to reach its invader, and strikes with its tail against the surface of the water, making a report at each blow louder than the noise of a camon."

The tail is of an amazing size, and of a semilunar shape; the animal uses it with great effect in accelerating the motion of its chormous lody; which notwithstanding its bulk, passes through the water with great rapidity, and leaves behind it a irack like that made by a large ship.

A sirong instance of the affection of these creatures for each other, is related by Anderson. A party of whale-fishers having harpooned one of two whales, (a male and female, that were in company together), the wounded fish made a long and terrible resistance; it struck down a boat with three men in it, with a single blow of the tail, by which all went to the bottom. The other still attended his companion, and lent it every assistance, till at last, the fish that was struck sunk under the number of its wounds; while its faithful associate, disdaining to survive the loss, with great bellowing, stretched itself upon the dead fish, and shared his fate. After the female whale has gone with young nine or ten monthe, she prodnces her cub, which is of a black colour, and about ten feet long : she is said to grow fat towards the end of her pregnancy, and occasionally brings forth two at a time, but never more; she suchles her offspring at her breast, for which purpose she inclines on one side, while the young one fastens to the teat; the breasts are filled with a laree gquantity of milk, like those of land animals; she shews the greates tenderness and affection for her young, and carries if with her at all times, supporling it hetween her tins when closely pursued, and plunging with it to the bottom, in order to avoid the danger: even when wounded, she continues her attachment, and clasps her young one till she is no longer able to support it: during the time the young continues at the breast, which is aboticat twelvemonth, the sailors call them short-heads; when two years old, they are termed stunts, and from that time forward skull-fish. The short-heads are extremely fat, and will sometimes yield 50 barrels of blubber; but after they become stunts, their fat diminishes, and they scarcely yield 24 barrels.

When the Grenlanders proceed to catch a whale, they
are carcful to dress themselves in their best apparel, from a ridiculous notion, that the whale detests a slovenly person, and would immediately avoid them if they were not neatly clad. In this manner a number of men and women, sometimes amounting to more than 50 , set out together in one of their large boats; the women upon these occasions, carry with them their sewing implements, which are equally employed to mend their hinsbands' clothes, if they should be torn, or to repair the boat, if it should receive any damage in the seams.

When a whale makes its appearance on the water, the most vigorous fisherman strikes into it a harpoon, which is a sort of javelin, well steeled at one extremity, and five or six feet long; to this are fastened lines or straps, made of seal's skin, two or three fathoms in length, and having at the end a bag of whole seal's skin blown up: this tends in some measure to prevent the whale from sinking, and almost compels it to keep near the surface of the water; where it is constantly attacked by the people in the boat, till it is killed.

As soon as the animal is dead, they put on their spring jackets, made all in one piece, of a dressed seal's skin; with their boots, gloves, a:ad caps, which are fitted so tightly to cach other, that no water can penetrate them: in this garb they plunge into the sea, and begin to slice off the fat all ronind the whale's body, even from those parts that are under water; this they can do by the help of their spring jackets, which being fill of air, prevents their sinking under water, and at the same time enable them to keep themselves upright in the sea. These men are sonetimes daring enough to monnt on the back of a whale before he is quite dead, and begin to cut him in pieces.

The mamer in which the whale fishery is carried on by the Eurepeans is thus described: when the shipsemployed in this business, are arrived at the place where the whates are expected to pass, they always lieep their sails set, and a saitor is placed at the mast-head, to give the information when he sees a whale. As soon as one is diecovered, the whole crew are instantly in employment: they fit ont their boats, and row away to the spot where the whale was seen; the harpooner, who is to strike the fish, stands at the prow of the boat, with one of these instruments in his hand, which is about six fect long, and pointed with steel, like the barb of at arrow, of a triangular slape. Besides the harpooner, each boat has one man at the rudder, another to manage the line, and four seamen is rowers.

They are likewise provided with several lances, and six lines, each 120 fathoms long, fastened together.

When the man at the prow strikes his harpoon into the animal, it immediately darts towards the bottom, and carries off the harpoon with such rapidity, that were the lines to receive the least check in its passage, the boat would infallibly be overset ; to prevent this, it is coiled up with the greatest care, and a man is stationed expressly to attend to the line, that it inay pass without interruption. Another precaution is likewise highly necessary ; the rope is made to run over a swivel at the edge of the boat, and the friction occasioned by its swift motion is so great, that the wood would soon take fire, if a person did not constantly keep it wetted. When the whale returns to the surface, he is again altacked, and once more retreats in the same manuer; this is continued till he becomes faint with the loss of blood, when they venture to row close alongside, and plunge a lance into his breast, and through his intestines, which soon decides his fate, and the enormous animal expires. As som as the carcass begins to float, $i t$ is towed to the ship by ropes, passed through holes cut for that purpose, in the fins and tail.

When the body has been properly secured to the side of the ship, they proceed to take out the blubber and whalebone, after cutting off the tail, which is hoisted upon deck. It is proper to observe, that the persons who are employed in this operation, are furnished with a sort of iron spurs, to prevent their sliping from off the animal. After the tail is separated, they cut out square pieces of blubber, weighing two or three thousand pounds each, which are likewise hoisted on board, where they are divided into smaller pieces, and thrown into the hold to drain; in this manner they proceed, till all the blabber is secured; after which they suffer what semains of the carcass to Hoat away, having previously cut out the two upper jaw bones, which are considered as the eaptain's pergnisite, and accordingly are fastened to the shrouds, where hey discharge a considerable quantity of oit, which is canght in tubs placed under them for that purpose.

When the blubber has been three or four days in the hokd, they chop it insmall pieces, and put it into the casks through the bung-holes. A whale will yield from 30 to 70 butts of blubber, and will be worth from 4001. to a 10001 . What induces the men to exert themselves in the capture of these aminals, is the premiams which their employers, give, from the captain down to the men who row the boats, on every
whate that is taken.

The fishery begins in May, and ends in Angust, when they must return at all events, on account of the ice, which would otherwise hem them in. When they have made a prosperous voyage, they return in June or July; and a ship of 300 tons burthen, when full of blubber, will produce more than 5000 l.

It appears from Mr. Anderson's account, that the Dutch, during the space of forty-six years previous to the year 1791, had employed 5886 ships in this fishery, and caught 39,307 whales; which, valued on an average at 500 . each* will amount to above $16,000,000 l$. sterling.

The flesh and fat of the whale are eaten by many of the northern nations, and considered as a delicacy. However, we are not much inclined to agree with them, but rather abide by the opinion of Frederick Martens, who in his voyage to Spitsbergen, says that it is as coarse and hard as the flesh of a bull. It is intermixed with many sinews, and is very dry and lean when boiled, as the fat is only to be found between the flesh and the skin. The flesh about the tail is preferred for boiling, not being quite so dry as the rest of the borly.
"When we have a mind to eat of a whale," says Martens, "we cul great pieces off before the tail, where it is four feet square, and boil it like other meat. Good beef I prefer far before it; yet rather than be starved, I advise to eat whale's flesh; for none of our men died of it, and the Frenchmen did eat it almost daily, flinging it on the tops of their tubs, and letting it lie till it was black, and yet eating it in that condition."

Among the Kamtschatkans, the fitt of the whale was considered as a first-rate delicacy, and forced down the throat of the visitor with a savage officiousness that would not admit of a refusal.

This beastly hospitalify is now become obsolete. Formerly, as a mark of respect to a guest, the host set before him as much food as would serve ten people. Both were stripped naked. The host refused politely to touch a bit, hut compelled his friend to devour what was set before him, till he was quite gorged, and at the same time heated the place by incessantly pouring water on hot stones till it became insupportable. When the guest was crammed up to the throat, the generous landlord, on his knees, stuffed into his mouth a great slice of whale's fat, cut off what hung out, and cried in a surly tone, "Thana!" or "There!" by which he fully discharged his duty; and, between heat-
ing and cramming, obliged the poor guest to cry for mercy, and a release from the danger of being choked by the suffocating welcome which he derived from savage hospitality.

The first account of the whale fishery is in the voyages of Outher, a Norwegian, A.D. 871 , whose progress, preservel by Alfred, appears to have been along the coast of Lapland to the White Sea, where Archangel now stands. From his relation we learn, that the northern people were accustomed to catch whales and seals (unquestionably for their oil), of the skins of which they made ropes of all sizes; and iwso loorse whales, whose skins they applied to the same purpose. In 1390, this fishery was practised by the people of Biscay. In 1593, it is observed by Makluyt, that some English ships made a voyage to Cape Breton, the entrance of the bay of St. Lawrence, which is the first time that place is mentioned as a fishing station; and although they found no whales there, they discovered on the island 800 whale fins, part of the cargo of a Biscay ship lost three years before. This is also the first time that whale fins or whale-bone is mentioned by the English. In the northern seas we became, about this period, acquainted with the whale fishery, in consequence of hunting for morses, as they were then termed. In the year 1597, the English having, in pursuit of their voyages of discovery, become acquanted with those boisterons latitudes, sime of the Russian company cominenced a fishery for whales near Spitsbergen, which was at first attended with success, but in a few years declined, so that at the beginning of the seventeenth century, only one ship was employed in it. In the year 1069 we find the trade a little revived, in consequence of the adventurous voyage of captain dobas Poole, who sailed as far north as $78^{\circ} 43^{\prime}$, in the hope of finding a N. Wr. passage; but though he missed that, he found whales in abundance, which turned out a much more profitable speculation.

Antecedent to the year 1615, the whale fishery, by means of Biscayan whaters, was prosecuted ty the Eurlish East India Company, and the disputes betwixt the English and Dutch on this ground, or rather on this water, have beeis amply recorded. In the year 1609, the fishery of the latter was much increased by the abolition of a monopolizing company. It was then found that we had stood in our own light, therefore in 1672 the strictness of the Navigration Act was relaxed, and a company established in London in favour of the fishery. 'This company, though exempt from duty, was so unsuccessful, that by the year 1996 they had annihiKEITH.]
lated their capital; the fishery was therefore thrown open by parliament, and as it was found both in a commercial and political point of view, of the utmost national importance, it was througl: the last century fostered and encouraged by judicious bounties, and put in possession of every adivantage that government could bestow upon it ; the conserfuchec of this has been, that it has increased, and with it have incieased the comfort and security of the inhabitants of this united lingdom, insomuch, that from the Grecnland fishery is derived the light that guides our steps, and the marime strength that guards our coast, and renders the cool intrepidity of our sailors at once proverbial in this country, and! lerrific to the rest of the world.

On Monday the 23d, we were in latitude $36^{\circ} 41^{\prime} \mathrm{S}$. longitude, $11^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$., and being near the island of Tristan de Acunha, kept a good look ont for it, but the weather was uncommonly foggy and hazy, night and day. This morning at nine we passed a very large wreck, being apparently part of the topsides and timbers of some ill-fated ship, the whole of whose crew were in all probability engulphed in the mfathomable decp, or else sinking under the accumulated horrors of hunger, thirst, and cold, on the bleak and barren rocks of Tristan de Acunha, an island as desolate in reality as in appearance.

On Saturday the 28th, we were in $3^{\circ} 18^{\prime} \mathrm{W}$. by lunar ob. servation.

## CHAP. IX.

Arrive at the Cape of Good Hope-Transuctions thereAccourt of the Cape Towon and its Vicinity-ClinateCountry of the Hottentots-Its natural ProductionsManners and Customs of the Natives.

ON Saturday the 4th of January, 1806, at 5 P.M. we had the satisfaction of seeing the Cape of Good Hope, bearing E. by N. distant about 14 leagues.

The following day it blew very hard from the westward, with a heavy sea, and we stood to the northward; the Table Land bearing at noon E. S. E. 10 leagues distant.

On Monday morning, at daylight, the weather being moderate, we made sail, and stood in to reconnoitre the Table Bay. At eight, being wilhin signal distance from the Sugar Loaf, and Lion's Rump, we hoisted American colours. At nine saw a strange sail bearing west, and gave chace, finding that no signals were made to us from the shore. At twenty minutes past nine, saw several ships at anchor under the Blue Hills, near Lospord's Bay. At thirty minutes past nine, observed some of them to weigh, and stand along shore, in different directions. At forty-two minutes past nine, the ships under weigh began a cannonade, seemingly directed against the beach. We immediately wore and stood in to reconnoitre them, under all sail; at the same time clearing for action. At ten, the firing ceased. At thirty minutes past ten, could distinguish them to be the squadron we had left at Salvador, with the exception of the Diomede and Espoir, which had been detached to cover the landing of the light horse, and a large body of infantry, in Saldariha Bay, and the Narcissus frigate, which had not yet joined the fleet. At eleven, showed our number, and at noon spoke the commodore.

From this period until the surrender of the Cape of Gond Hope to the British forces on the 8th of January, 1806, the proceedings of the Protector became so immediately connected with those of the squadron (which are published) as to render any further detail unnecessary.

It therefore only remains to give a short description of the Cape Town and the adjacent country, its most remarkable productions, and of the manners and customs of that simgular race, the Hottentots.

The Cape Town, situated in Table Bay, is neat, clean, and well built, rising in the midst of a desest, sumronaded by black and dreary mountains; or, in other words, the pieture of successful industry. The store-housus of the Dutch East India Company are situated next the water, and the private building's lie beyond them, on a gentle ascent. The principal fort which commands the road is on the cast side; and another strong fort called Amsterdam Fort, has been built on the west side. The streets are broad and resular, intersecting each other at right angles. The houses in general are buit of stone, and whitewashed. There are two churches, one for the Calvinists, the established religion, the other for the Lutherans. The religion of the slaves is as little regarded here as in the colonies of other European states. In other respects, however, they are treated with humanity, and are

Indged and boarded in a spacious honse, where they are like. wise hept at work. These slaves, a few Hottentots excepted, were all originally brought from the East Indics, and principally from Malacea. Another great building serves as an hospital for the sailors belonging to the Dutch East India ships which touch here. It is situated close to the Company's gardens. It is an honour to that commercial body, and an ornament to the town. The convalescents have free access to these gardens, where they enjoy the benefit of a pure wholesome air, perfumed by the fragrance of a great number of rich fruit trees, aromatic shrubs, and odoriferous phants and flowers: they have likewise the use of every prodiffetion in it. The inhabitants are fond of gardens, which they keep in excellent order. Though stout and athletic, they have not all that phlegin ahout them which is the characteristic of the Dutch in general. The ladies are lively, good natured, familiar, and gay. The heavy dranght-work about the Cape is chiefly performed by oxen, which are here brought to an uncommon degree of docility and usefulness. The inhabitants, in general, travel in a kind of covered waggens, drawn by oxen, which betier suits the roughness of the country than more elegant vehicles; but the governor, and some of the pincipal people keep coaches, which are much in the English style, and are drawn by six lorses. The ground behind the town gradually rises on all sides toward the mountains, called the Table Mountain, (which is the highest;) the Sugar Loaf, so named from its form; the Lion's Head; Charles Mount, and James Mount, or the Lion's Rump. From these mountains descend several rivulets which fall into the different bays, as Table Bay, False Bay, \&c. The view from the Table Mountain is very extensive and picturesque; and among the vallies and rivalets throughout these mountains, are a great number of delightful plantations.

The adjacent country is inhabited by the Hottentots, extending North and by West, along the coast, from the Cape of Good Hope, beyond the mouth of Oange River, and from that Cape in an E. N. E. direction, to the mouth of the Great Fish River, which parts it from Caffaria. The Hottentots areas tall as most Europeans; but as they are mote stinied in their food, they are more slender. Dr. Sparman was the first that observed a characteristic mark of this nation, namely, the smallness of their hands and feet compared with the other parts of the body. Their skin is of a yellowish brown hue, resembling that of an European who has the jaundice in a high degree; but this colur is not at all
observed in the whites of the eyes. There are not stech thiek lips among the Hottentots as among their aeighours the Negroes, the Caffer, and the Mozambiques. Their mont! is of the middling size; and they have in generat, the finest set of teeth imaginable. Wheir heals are covereci ivith inair, more woolly if possible, than that of the Negroes. In fine, with respect to their shape, carriage, and every motion, their whole appearance indicates healith and content. In their mien, moreover, a degree of carelessitess is observable, that evinces marks of alacrity and resolution; qualities which upon occasint, they certainly can exhibit. Not only the men but the women also are ciothed with shecp-skins; the wool being wom outwarl in summer, and inword during the winter. They wear one skin orer their shonders, the ends of it crossing each other before, and leaving their neck bare. Anotherskin is fasteited round their middle, and reaches down to their knees.

They besmear their bodies all over, very copiously, with fat, in which there is mixed up a fithe soot, and this is never wiped off. They likewise perfiame themsel ves with powder of herbs, with which they powderboin the head and body, rubbing it all over them, when they besmear themselves. The odour of this powder much resembles poppy mixed with spices. Such of the women, morcover, as are ambitious to please, adorn themselves with nechlaces of shells: "for even 19 this country, says the able de la Caille, "the sex have their charms, which they endeavour to heighten by such arts as are peculiar to themselves, and would meet with lithe success elsewhere. To this end, they not only grease all the naked parts of their body to make them shine, but they braid or plait their hair as an additomal eleganace. A Hottentot lady, thus bedizened, has exhausted all the arts of her toilet; and however unfavourable mature may have been to her, with regard to shape and stature, her pride is wonderfully flattered, while the splendour of her appearance gives her the highest degree of satisfaction. But with all this vanity, they are not devoid of a scise of modesty. "Ahong the Hottentots," says Dr. parman, "as well as, in all probability, among the rest of manhind dispersed over the whole globe, we must acknowledge the fair sex to be the most modest; for the females of this nation cover themselves much more scruphlously than the men. They seldon content themselves with one covering, but almost always have two, and very often three. These ane made of a prepared and weil-greased skin, and are finstened anout their bodics with a thong, almost like
the aprons of our ladies. The outermost is always the largest, measuring from about six inches to a foot, over. This is likewise generally, the finest and most showy, and frequently adorned with glass-beads strung in different figures, in a manner that shows, even among the unpolished Hottentots, the superior neatness of the fair sex in works of ornament, as well as their powers of invention; and their disposition to set off their persons to the best advantage." Both the men and women generally go bare-headed. Neither their ears nor nose are adorned with any pendent ornaments, as they are among other savages. The nose, however, is sometimes, by way of greater state, marked with a black streak of soot, or with a large spot of red lead; of which latter, on high days and holidays, they likewise put a little on their checks. Both sexes wear rings on their arms and legs; most of these are made of thick leather straps, cut in a circular shape, and these have given rise to the almost universally received notion, that the Hottentots wrap guts about their legs, in order to eat them occasionally. Rings of iron, copper, or brass, of the size of a goose-quill, are considered as more genteel than those of leather; but the girls are not allowed to use any rings till they are marriageable.

The Hottentots seldom wear any shoes. What they do wear, are made of undressed leather, with the hairy side outward: they are rendered soft and pliable, by being beat and moistened, and are very light and cool. Their habitations are adapted to their wandering pastoral life. They are merely huts, some of them of a circular, and some of an oblong shape, resembling a round bee-hive or a vault. The ground plot is from eightcen to twenty-four feet in diameter. The highest of them are so low, that it is scarcely possible for a middlesized man to stand upright. But neither the lowness of the liut, nor that of the door, which is barely three feet high, can he considered as any inconvenience to a Hottentot, who finds no difficulty in stooping and crawling on all fours, and who is at any time more inclined to lie down than stand. The fire-place is in the middle, and they sit or lie round it in a circle. The low door is the only place that admits the light, and at the same time, the only outlet that is left for the smoke. The Hottentot, inured to it from his infancy, sees it hover round him, without feeling the least inconvenience arising from it to his eyes; while rolled up like a hedge-hog, and wrapped up in his skin, he lies at the bottom of his hut quite at his ease in the midst of this cloud, except that he is now and then obliged to peep out
from beneath his sheep-skin, in order to stir the fire, or perhaps to light his pipe, or else, sometimes to turn the steak he is broiling over the coal. The order of these huts in a craal, or clan, is most frequently in the form of a circle, with the doors inward; by which means a kind of yard is formed, where the cattle are kept ai night. The mili, as soon as it is taken from the cow, is put to other milk, which is curdled, and is kept in a leather sack, the hairy side of which, being considered as the cleanest, is turned inward; so that the nilk is never drank while it is sweet. Such are Hottentots in the vicinity of the Cape of Giood Hope.

Licutenant Paterson, in 1778, visited a Hottentot village in the small Nimiqna Land, in the N.W. part of the country; it consisted of 19 huts, and abont 150 inhabitants. The ensign of authority worn by their chief, was a cane with a brass top, given to him by the Dutch Last India Company. The Hottentots amused them part of the night, with their music and dancing ; their visitors in return, treated them with tobacco and daeka, or hemp leaves, which they prefer even to tobacco. Their music was produced from flutes, made of the bark of trees of different sizes. The men form themselves into a circle, with their flutes, and the women dance round them: in this manner they dance in partics the whole night, being relieved every two hours. Among other tribes of Hottentots are the Boshmans, who inhabit the mountains, in the interior part of the comentry, N. E. of the Cape of Good Hope: they are sworn enemies to the pastoral life : some of their maxims are to live on hunting and plunder, and never to keep any animal alive for the space of one night. On this account, they themselves are pursued and exterminated, like the wild beasts whose manners they have assumed. Some of them when taken are kept alive, and made slaves of. Their weapons are poisoned arrows, which, shot from a small bow, will hit a mark, with a tolerable degree of certainty, at the distance of 100 paces. From this distance they can with stcalth, as it were, convey death to the game they hunt for food, as well as to their foes, and even to such a tremendous beast as the lion. Safe, in his ambush, the Hottentot is certain of the operation of his poison, which is so virulent, that it is said he has only to wait a few minutes to see the beast expire. Their habitations are not more agreeabie than their manners and maxims: like the wild beasts, bushes, and clefts in rocks, serve them by turns for dwellings. Many of them are entirely naked; but some of them cover their body with the skin of any sort of animal, great or small, from the shoulder downward at
far as it will reach, wearing it till it fall off their back in rags. As ignorant of agriculture as apes or monlsies, they ate obliged, like them, to wander over hills and dales after certain wild roots, berries, and plants, which they eat raw. Their table, however, is composed of several other dishes, among which are the harva of insects (the caterpillars, from which butterfies are produced), the terenites or white ants, rrasshoppers, smakes and spiders. With all these changes of diet, the Boshman is, nevertheless, frequently in want, aud to such a degree, as to waste almost to a shadow. When captured as a slave, he exchanges his meagre fare for the luxury of buttermilk, frumerty, or hasty pudding, which makes him fat in a few weeks. This good living, however, is soon embittered by the grumbling of lis master and mis. tress. The words " 'T"guzeri!" and " T'gumatsi!" which perliaps, are best translated by those of young sorcerer, and imp, he must frequenily bear, with perhaps a few curses or blows, for neglect and indolence. Detesting, indeed, all manner of labour, and from his corpulency, become still more slothful, he now sensibly regrets his former uncontrouled and wandering life, which be generaliy endeavours to regain by escaping; but what is wonderful; whenever one of them effects his escanue, he never takes any thing away that does not helong to him.

Another tribe of Hottentots, near the month of Orange Niver, were observed by lientenant Paterson, in his journey to the N.W. in 1779. Their huts were superior to those of the gencmality of Hottentots; they were lofticr, and thatched with grass; and were furnished with stools made of the back-bones of the grampus. Their mode of living is in the highest degree wretched, and they are apparently the most diriy of all the Hottentot tribes. Their dress is composed of the skins of seals and jackals, the flesh of which they eat. When a grampas is cast ashore, tisey remove their hus to the place, and subsist upon it as long as any part of it remains; and in this manner, it sometimes affords them sustenance for half a year, though in a great measure decayed and putrified by the sun. They smear their skins with oil, the odour of which is so powerful, that their approach may be perceived some time before they present themselves to view. They carry their water in the shells of ostrich eggs, and the bladrlers of seals, which they shoot with arrows, the same as the other Hotten, tots. With respect to the Hottentots in general, none of them seem to have any religion: on being questiosicd on the subject of a Creator and governor of the universe, they
answer, that they know nothing of the matter; nor do they appear willing to receive any instruction. All of them, however, have the firmest opinion in the power of magic ; whence it might be inferred, that they believe in an evil being, analogous to what we call the devil; but they pay no religious worship to him, though from the source they derive all the evils that happen; and among these evils, th:cy reckon cold, rain, and thunder. So monstrously ignorant are they, that many of the colonists assured Dr. Sparrman, that the Boshmans would abuse the thunder with many opprobrious epithets, and threaten to assault the lightning with old shoes, or any thing that comes to hand. Even the most intelligent of them could not be convinced, by all the arguments the doctor could use, that rain was not always, an evil, and that it would be an happy circumstance, were it never to rain. They seem, however, to have some idea of a future state, as they reproach their friends when dead, with leaving them so soon, admonishing them to behave henceforth more properly, by which they mean, that their deceased friends should not come back again and haunt them, nor allow themselves to be made use of by wizards, to bring any mischicf on those that survive. Some old authors have said, that the Hottentots sleep promiscuously in the same hut, and are neither acquainted with the difference of age, nor with that invincible horror whicl: separates beings connected by blood. M. Vaillant, after observing that this circumstance had led some to the most infamous suspiclons, exclaims, "Yes! the whole family inhabit the same hut; the father lies by the side of his daughter, and the mother by the son, but on the return of Aurora, each rises with a pure heart, and without having occasion to blusi before the Author of all Beings, or any of the creatures that he has marked with the seal of his resemblance."
The country possessed by the Dutch is of pretty considerable extent, comprelending not only the large tract between Table Bay and False Bay, but that which is called Hottentot Holland, extending from False Bay to the Cabo dos Agulhas, or Cape of Needles, and the country farther East beyond St. Christopher's River, called Terra de Nital. The whole of this country is naturally barren and mountainous; but the industrious Dutch have overcome all natural difficulties, and it produces not only a sufficiency of all the necessaries of life for the inhabitants, but also for the refreshment of all the European ships that touch here. The Dutch consider the year as divided into two seasons, which they EEITH.]
term monsoons; the wet monsoon, or winter, and the dry one, or summer; the first begins with our spring in March, the latter with September, when our summer ends. In the bad season, the Cape is much subject to fogs: in June and July it rains almost continually till summer. The weather in winter is cold, raw, and unpleasant; but never more rigorous than autumn in Germany. Water never freezes to above the thickness of balf-a-crown, and as soon as the sun appears, the ice is dissolved. The Cape is ravely visited by thunder and lightning, excepting a little near the turn of the season, which never does any hurt.

Among the quadrupeds of this country are antelopes, which go in herds of 200 or 300 each, buffaloes, cameleopardilises, the gemsbock, or chamois, a species of antelope, which has remarkably long sharp horns, and, when attacked by dogs, will set on its hind quarters and defend itself; wild dogs, much larger than the jackal, which travel in lierds, and are very destructive to flocks of sheep; elephants, elks, hyænas, the koedo, an animal of a mouse colour, rather larger than our deer, with three white stripes over the back, and the male having very large twisted horns; lions, jackals, tigers, the quacha, a species of the zebra, but more tractable; rhinoceroses, horses, domestic horned cattle, common sheep, and a peculiar species of shecp, which are covered with hair instead of wool. The hippopotamus, or river horse, is frequently seen bere. Among the birds, are vultures, ostriches, whose eggs are excellent food, and the loxia, a species of gregarious bird, which builds its curious nest in the mimosa tree, where it forms a kind of thatched house, with a regular street of nests on both sides, at about two inches distance from each other, and containing under its roof, in one that lieutenant Patterson saw, from 800 to 1000 birds. The termites, or white ants, which do no injury to the wood, as in the East Indies, but to the grass, the clestruction of which they occasion by raising a number of hills, which impede the progress of vegetation. The Hottentots eat them, and lieutenant Patterson, who tasted this food, found it far from disagrecable. The locusts also are esteemed excellent food by the Boshmans, by whom they are dried and kept for use. The black or rock scorpion is nearly as venomous here as any of the serpent tribe, of which there are numerous kinds. There are six species about the Cape, namely, the horned snake, about eighteen inches long, the most poisonous of them all : the kouseband or garter snake, about the same length, dangerous to travellers on account of resembling the soil so much in colour,
that it is not readily perceived; the yellow snake, which differs in colour only from the hooded snake of India, and being from four to eight feet in length, their size and bright yellow colour renders it easy to avoid them; the pulf adder, about 40 inches in length, so called from blowing itself up to near a foot in circumference; the spring adder, very dangerous, but not common, from three to four feet long, and of a jet black, with white spots; and the night snake, more beautiful than any of the others, about $\mathscr{Z} 0$ inches long, very thin, belted with black, red, and yellow, and when near, at night has the appearance of fire. This country lies between the tropic of Capricorn and $35^{\circ}$ south latitude, and is bounded on the west, south, and east, by the Atlantic, Southern, and Indian Ocean; and on the north, by regions very little, if at all, explored.

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