

**Journal of a voyage performed in the Lion extra Indiaman, from Madras to Columbo, and Da Lagoa Bay, on the eastern coast of Africa ... in the year 1798. With some account of the manners and customs of the inhabitants of Da Lagoa Bay, and a vocabulary of the language / [William White].**

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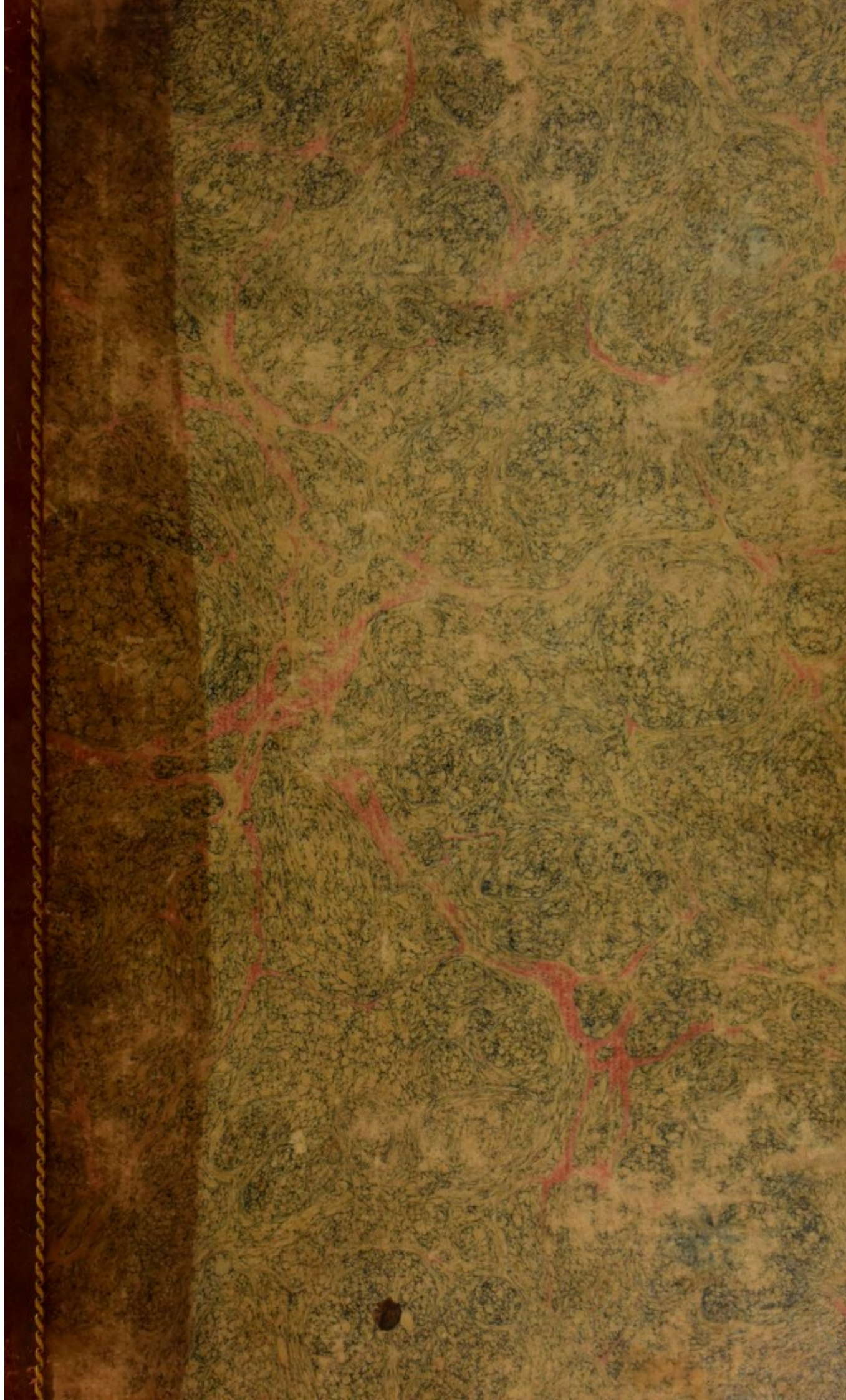
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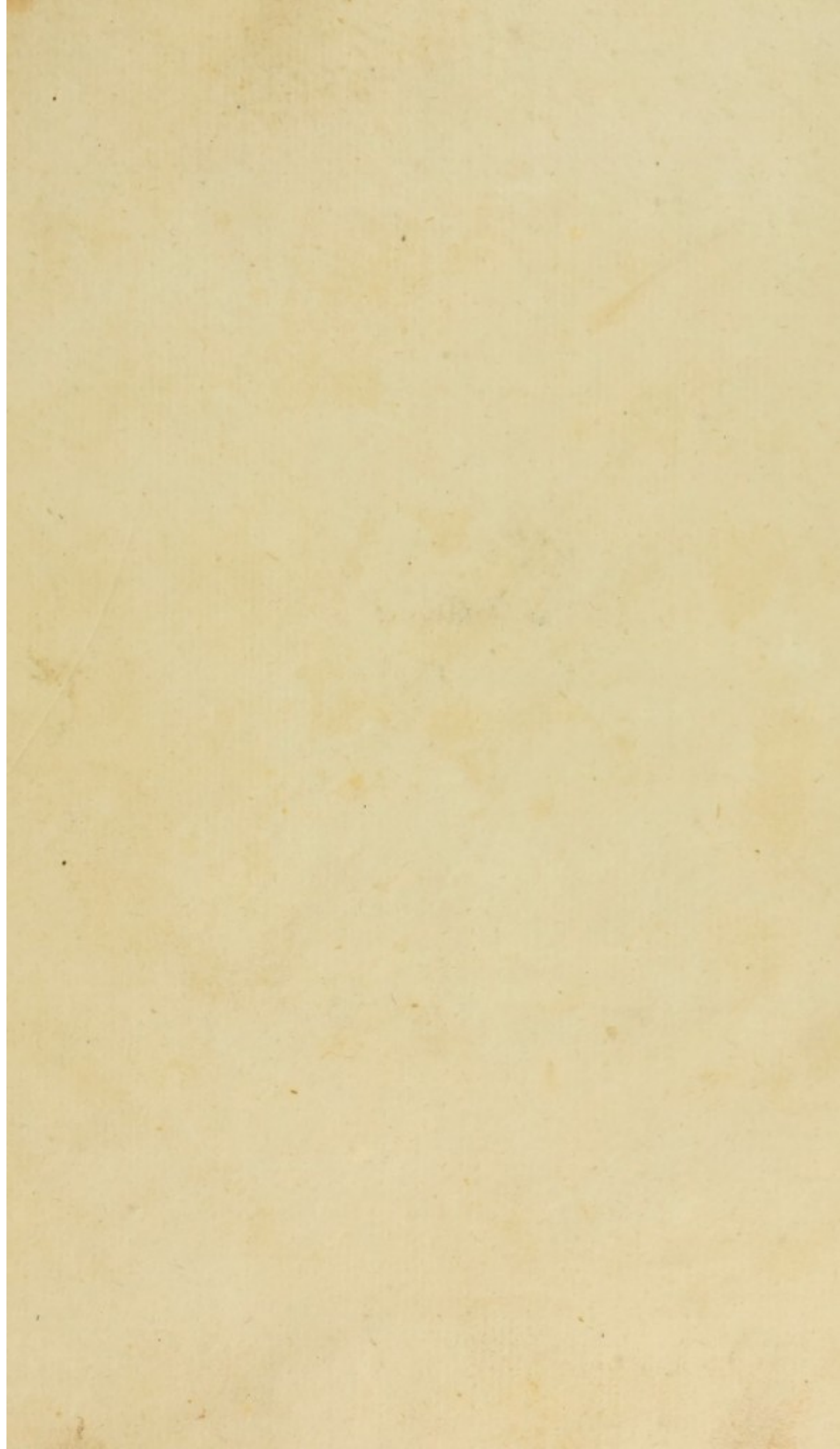




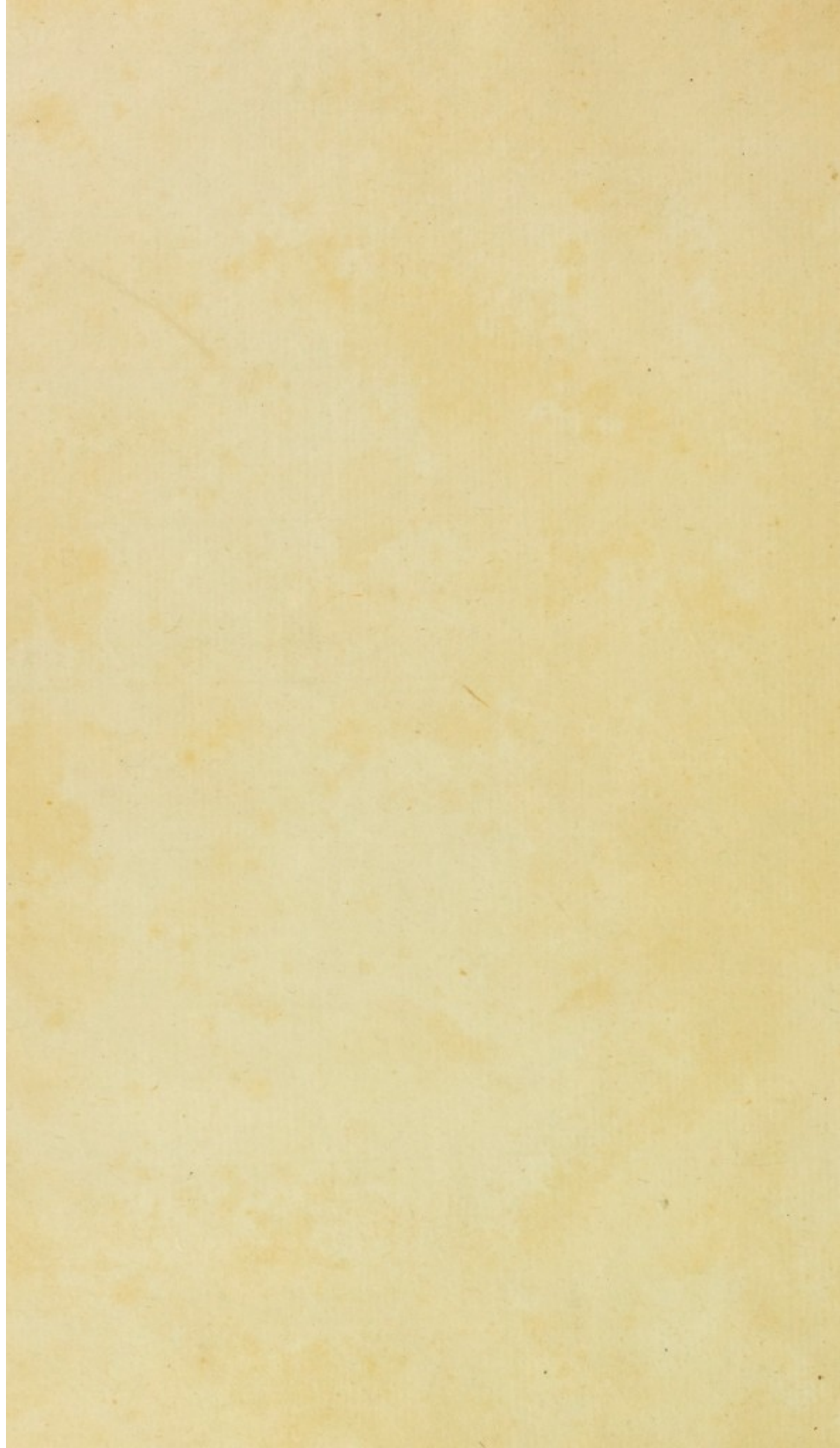
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*Natives of the North side the River Mafumo, in their War-Dress.*

*Published Feb: 6<sup>th</sup> 1800, by J. Stoddard, Providence.*



# JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE

PERFORMED IN THE

LION EXTRA INDIAMAN,

FROM

MADRAS TO COLUMBO,

AND DA LAGOA BAY, ON THE EASTERN COAST OF AFRICA;

(WHERE THE SHIP WAS CONDEMNED)

IN THE YEAR 1798.

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF

THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

OF

THE INHABITANTS OF DA LAGOA BAY,

AND A

VOCABULARY OF THE LANGUAGE.

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BY WILLIAM WHITE, ESQ.

*Captain in the 73d Highland Regiment of Foot.*

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EMBELLISHED WITH PLATES.

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“ There must be a degree of novelty in every work not fervilely purloined, and there are few travellers who have not added something to our stock of information.”

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London :

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

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1800.



# JOURNAL OF A JOURNAL

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Printed by T. Gillet, Salisbury-Square.

## P R E F A C E.

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WHEN I left India I had not the slightest idea of ever offering any thing to the Public eye, and of course was by no means prepared for such an undertaking. My sole reason for laying the following pages before the Public is, not vanity, but a sincere wish of giving some information to my Country, respecting a part of Africa, not much known, though often frequented by both British and American Whalers. If this should be so considered, my end is gained ; though I must observe, that if my health had permitted, and I had made a longer stay, I could have rendered it much more interesting. I had hardly paper sufficient to make a fair transcript of what I had written, and few or no materials for drawing.

*London, 17th February, 1800.*



### DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

Natives of the north side of the River Mafumo, in their war drefs, (described at page 38,) to face the Title.

Natives of the south side of the River Mafumo, one of them smoking bang, to face page 34.

# JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE,

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*26th February, 1798.*

**N**OT being able to procure a passage to England in the fleet of Indiamen that sailed from Madras about the middle of February, 1798, under convoy of his Majesty's ship *Heroine*, I was obliged, on account of my bad state of health, to take my passage in the extra ship *Lion*, a very slow sailer, for the Bengal fleet left her two days sail from where the pilots commonly leave ships. As the ship was, however, much too deeply laden, and really being a rotten old patched up Dutch Indiaman, an unfit ship for a valuable cargo, besides risking the lives of so many people: this, and her being badly equipped in sails and rigging, was the sole reason of her



meeting with the misfortune I am about to relate. I was given to understand, though the fleet had failed, that she would be dispatched singly; but the Madras government ordered her to proceed to Columbo, and wait for the cinnamon ships from Bengal. I must now observe, that if the ship had been dispatched directly from Madras, without being ordered to Ceylon, she would, in all probability, have escaped the violent weather she afterwards experienced off the Cape, and might have arrived there by the middle of May; but the different governments of *India* of late years make the ships fail at all seasons, which is the cause of so many vessels being lost, or forced to put back in a shattered and leaky state.

I embarked at Madras at five P. M. on Monday the 26th of February, 1798, on board the *Lion*, and we sailed the same evening for Columbo, where we arrived on the 11th of March; but the *Minerva* Indiaman and *Harriot* extra ship did not arrive from Bengal till the beginning of April, and we sailed, on the 22d of the same month,

month, under convoy of his Majesty's ship *Arrogant*, who left us on the 25th, in  $3^{\circ} 23'$  north latitude, and we lost sight of the *Minerva* and *Harriot* on the 29th, in  $32'$  north of the line; as they sailed much better than us, we never again fell in with them. Nothing material occurred till the 10th of June, when we encountered a most severe gale of wind in  $32^{\circ}$  south latitude, and  $38^{\circ}$  east longitude. The following short account is extracted from the ship's Journal, with some other remarks, till we arrived in Da Lagoa Bay, on the east coast of Africa, where the ship was condemned on account of her very shattered state. I must add, that for many days we were obliged to be under very easy sail, as the sails wanted almost continual repairs, which prolonged our voyage exceedingly.

Sunday, 10th of June. Strong gales from the N.N.E.; cloudy and squally weather; double reefed the top-sails; handed mizen top-sails; gale freshens, with very vivid flashes of lightning. Eleven P. M. the wind changed in



a very heavy squall to the N. N. W.; handed the fore top-fail, but the squall was so very violent, that it blew the fore top-fail, main top-fail, with the fore main and mizen stay-fails to pieces, and blew best part of them away: at the same time found the ship to make so much water, that we were obliged to keep both pumps going to keep her free. Ship rolling and straining much; upper and gun decks full of water. At two A. M. rolled away the main top-mast, which carried away the starboard side of the main top, and stove some of the boats employed clearing the wreck. Nine A. M. bent another fore-fail, our only one left; strong gales, and a very high sea, with frequent heavy squalls; found the principal leak to be in the counter, the water rushing in so fast, that both pumps could but just keep her free.

Monday, 11th June. It still continues to blow hard, with severe squalls, and a mountainous sea; ship making so much water as to gain on both pumps, in consequence of which, we, for the preservation of our lives, began

began to lighten the ship abaft, by throwing overboard indigo, fugar, rice and paddy out of the run. The stern frame working, and the ship labouring exceffively, fet the fore-fail, and continued till dark in heaving cargo overboard. At twelve got the pumps to fuck; two A. M. rolled away the mizen-maft; and at half paff four rolled away the fore top-maft, which was immediately followed by the fore-maft, which went in three pieces; cut away the wreck from the ship; very furious fqualls, with a heavy confused fea; both pumps going, and heaving cargo overboard from the fore and after hold; beft part of the ship's ftores got wet, the gun-room being full of water, owing to the counter being fo very leaky.

Tuesday, 12th June. Gale ftill continues, with a tremendous fea from the westward; main-maft only ftick ftanding, and expect it to go every minute, as the ship rolled very heavy. Employed heaving cargo overboard from the fore and after hold; both pumps going;

ship



ship rolling and straining very heavy; upper and gun decks, with the gun room, full of water; continues to blow very severely all night; the lashings of the caboose and ring-bolts gave way, and rendered it unfit for use. At four A. M. found the stern frame and planks of the counter quite loose, the water making a fair breach in abaft, rushing into the gun-room at the wooden-ends; ship straining and getting much worse; employed heaving overboard all the guns but two, gun-powder, cargo, and several of the ship's stores and lumber from the poop; found the water to gain on both pumps; it still continues to blow very hard, with a heavy sea.

Wednesday, 13th June. Strong gales and squally weather, with a heavy swell from the south-west; ship labouring violently, and both pumps going; employed heaving cargo out of the fore and after hold till dark. Eight P. M. got the pumps just to suck; strong gales all night, ship still making the same water, and both pumps going. At day-light continued to heave the  
cargo

cargo overboard ; carpenter employed in lashing in the counter with rods of iron and logs of wood, to prevent the planks from falling out, and securing the stern frame with thrappings ; ship rolling and straining violently ; upper and lower gun-decks, with the gun-room, full of water ; both pumps going, and can but just keep the ship free.

Latitude observed  $33^{\circ} 59'$  south. Had no time or thought of taking an observation during the 10th, 11th, and 12th. Captain Severs and his officers being engaged in the other more necessary duties of the ship, so much so, that they were even at a loss for the day of the week, or month, until I set them right.

Thursday, 14th June, fresh gales with a high sea ; employed heaving cargo overboard from the fore and after hold till dark ; reefed the main-sail, and set it ; got both pumps to suck. More moderate gale and fine weather ; the sea much gone down ; one pump constantly



stantly going. At day light began heaving cargo overboard; 10 A. M. got up a main top-gallant mast for a fore mast, and bent a lower studding-sail to it to wear the ship to the north-west, having determined to stand to the northward, to fetch Da Lagoa, or St. Augustin's bay, and likewise to get into fine weather, the ship being in such a shattered state, that we expected her to go down with us every puff of wind. Found several of the main chain-plates, and water way planks started on the upper deck; moderate breeze and fine weather, both pumps going occasionally, and one constantly. Latitude observed  $34^{\circ} 30'$  south.

Friday, 15th June, moderate breeze from the south, and fine weather; got the ship's head to the north-west at one P. M.; continued heaving cargo overboard till dark; one pump constantly going; set the fore-royal over the lower studding-sail, and bent the jibb for a main stay-sail. Moderate breeze from the south-east, and fine weather, but a heavy swell from the westward, which  
made

made the ship roll very heavy, split the main-fail, unbent it, and bent a mizen top-fail to the main yard, and set it. At day-break continued heaving cargo overboard; water still coming in very violently abaft; both pumps going; carpenter employed securing the counter with additional logs of wood, and iron bars, to keep the planks from falling out, and securing the stern with additional thrapings. Repairing main-fail; ship still makes the same water, viz. eight inches an hour. Latitude observed  $34^{\circ} 8'$  south.

Saturday, 16th June, Light breezes from the south-east, and fine weather, but still continue heaving cargo overboard, as the ship makes the same water; one pump constantly going; moderate weather, with a heavy swell from the westward. Eleven P. M. swell much gone down, but the ship makes nearly as much water, being obliged to keep one pump going; wind east. Began at day light to clear the booms, got out a main top-mast for a jury fore-mast, and took down the top-

C

gallant-



gallant-mast that was rigged as a jury fore-mast, and got up the top-mast in its room, and the top-gallant-mast as a fore top-mast; bent main top-fail, and set it for a fore-fail, and top-gallant-fail for a fore top-fail; pump still going; cloudy weather, with light showers. No observation.

Sunday, 17th June. Moderate breeze from the N. E. and fine weather; pump constantly going; all fail set; cloudy, with lightning from the westward. At day light began clearing the decks, securing the spars, and fixing main top-mast, rigging, &c. Latitude  $34^{\circ} 13'$  south. Much disappointed in this day's observation, as we find ourselves to the southward of the observation on the 15th instant.

Monday, 18th June. Moderate gale from the N. N. W. and hazy weather; employed splicing and fixing main top-mast rigging, and heaving cargo overboard, from the fore and after hold, till dark; wind west. One P. M.

wore

wore ship to the northward. Ten P. M. squally; handed main-sail and fore top-sail; strong gales and squally weather during the night; heavy swell from the westward, ship labouring and rolling very heavy; pump constantly going; find the ship to sail better and much easier since throwing the guns and cargo overboard; obliged to begin to cut away the poop deck to ease her stern frame, which is getting quite loose; the sides give way three inches every time the ship rolled, and getting much worse. No observation.

Thursday, 19th June. Fresh gales from the W. N. W. and squally weather; ship rolls and strains much; one pump constantly going; employed heaving overboard our cargo from the fore and after hold; carpenter employed cutting away the poop. At day light continued heaving cargo overboard, as before; strong gales and squally weather, with a heavy swell from the westward; gun-deck full of water, and pump still going. Latitude observed  $33^{\circ} 0'$  south.



Wednesday, 20th June. Strong gales from the W. by N. and squally weather; continued heaving overboard cargo, from the fore and after hold, till dark; carpenter cutting away the poop; one pump constantly going; gun-deck full of water; squally, with rain; split the fore top-fail, unbent it to be repaired. At day light employed getting up the main top-mast; strong gales and squally weather, with a heavy westerly swell; pump still going. Latitude observed  $32^{\circ} 6'$  south.

Thursday, 21st June. Moderate gale from the W. S. W. and cloudy weather; got up main top-fail yard, bent the mizen top-fail to it, and set it; longitude, by two sets of lunar observations, yesterday and the day before  $33^{\circ}$  east, when we imagined ourselves to be in  $40^{\circ}$  east. "This shews the very strong south-westerly current we must have had, as the ship lay too most of the time of the gale, with her head to the southward, and eastward." Squally weather, with rain and a heavy swell from the westward, one pump constantly going; carpenter



penter employed cutting away the poop; ship rolling and straining; pump constantly going; carried away the flings of the main-yard, fwayed it up and fecured it. Latitude obferved  $30^{\circ} 7'$  fouth.

Friday, 22d June. Moderate breeze from the S. W. and cloudy weather; carpenter cutting away the poop; people employed fetting up the rigging; one pump constantly going; bent main-fail, and fet it with one reef; unfettled weather, with heavy fqualls, rain, thunder, and lightning; ftrong gales all night, with a heavy fea from the westward. Morning more moderate; employed clearing the gun-deck, found feveral bags of rice and bread damaged, owing to the leaky condition of the fhip; pump ftill going. Latitude obferved  $28^{\circ} 41'$  fouth.

Saturday, 23d June. Moderate gale from the W.S.W. and cloudy weather; fhip rolling and ftraining very fevere; pump going; ftrong gales all night, with continued fucceffive violent fqualls, with hard rain, lightning, and  
a moun-



a mountainous and heavy sea from the westward, shipping seas frequently both fore and aft; gun-deck full of water, and both pumps going all night. At day light more moderate, began bending the cables; found many of the planks and water ways started in the gun and upper decks. At ten A. M. saw the land, to our great joy, bearing from W. to N. W. being Mount Calato or Calico.

Sunday, 24th June. Strong gales from the west, and cloudy weather; got the anchors over the gunnels; one pump constantly going; St. Mary's Island bearing N. N. W. distance two or three leagues. At five P. M. foundings from fifteen to nine fathoms, clewed up the sails and let go the anchor; St. Mary's Island bearing from S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. to S. W. Elephant Island W. S. W. distance off shore four or five miles. At sun-rise saw six sail of square rigged vessels at anchor in Da Lagoa Bay; moderate breeze and fine weather. Eight A. M. fired a gun, and hoisted a signal of distress. Ten A. M. got  
up



up the anchor and made sail into the bay, with the flood tide; soundings very irregular, being from 13 to 3½ fathoms. At four P. M. came on board a boat, from the Neptune, Captain Thomas Hopper, South Sea whaler, with Mr. Stevenson, his first mate, who pointed out Deer Island Reef, only half a mile on our lee quarter; let go the anchor in 6½ fathom water, the flood tide being done; the reef which we narrowly escaped, but did not perceive till pointed out by Mr. Stevenson, bearing from N. W. to E. N. E. the sea not breaking on it at high water. At six P. M. came on board Mr. Clarke, mate of the London, Captain Keen, and Mr. Buncker, mate of the Eliza, Captain Kerr, both British whalers, offering us assistance. At half past eleven P. M. brought home the small bower anchor, and immediately let go the best bower, which happily brought the ship up, or we must inevitably have gone on the reef, not now more than a quarter of a mile from us, as the ebb tide set right on it, and what wind there was from the westward; this day finishes at midnight.

Monday,



Monday, 25th June. At seven A. M. came on board Messrs. Keen, Hopper, and Kerr, Commanders of the three British whalers in the Bay, the other three being Americans. At half past ten A. M. hove up the anchors, flood-tide making, (but I would advise no vessel of considerable draft of water to think of getting under way till quarter flood) and made sail, standing to the S. S. E. to avoid a shoal that lays to the southward of Deer Island Reef; found the soundings very irregular, being from 7, 4,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms, when the ship struck very hard both forward and abaft, and continued forging on the bank we wanted to avoid, the tide setting her on it, and there being only a light breeze from the westward. When on the bank, Cape St. Mary's bore S. E. half S. three leagues (by compass); Red Head west seven leagues, and Round Hill, the northernmost on the continent S. half W. four leagues, being a very round hill; the southernmost one is more oblong, and bore S. by E. nearly the same distance. At eleven A. M. the ship still striking very hard, unshipped the rudder, and  
we



we were obliged to cut it away, it striking violently under the counter; fired a gun, and hoisted a signal of distress; came along side all the British boats, and the three American commanders, Paddock, Toby, and Catfeby, with their boats, to our assistance; the ship still continuing to strike most severely, so that we could sometimes hardly stand the deck; hoisted out the long boat and flung all the spars overboard to lighten the ship; carried out the small kedge anchor to the starboard bow, and let it go in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fathom water and hove it well taut, to try and get the ship off, but without effect, so we had only the chance of her floating when the tide rose to near high water; however, at one P. M. the ship floated, and got all the boats to tow us. Four P. M. anchored in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  fathom, distance off shore six or seven miles, flood tide being done. At eight P. M. hove up the anchor, having all the boats to tow us, and at eleven came too, abreast of the shipping, distance off Deer Island, the nearest shore, two miles; one pump going all these twenty-four hours, but we did not find the ship to make any more water by her striking.



Tuesday, 26th June. Fresh breezes and fine weather; employed clearing the decks; obliged to keep one pump constantly going; called a survey on the ship, consisting of the three British commanders, and their carpenters, who condemned the ship. Captain Sever then chartered the London, Neptune, and Eliza, to carry the ship's cargo to England; hove up the anchors, and dropped nearer to Mafumo River, where we intend laying while delivering the cargo to the above named ships.

The following are the damages sustained by the ship in the late severe gale, besides losing her fore and mizen-masts, and main top-mast, her rudder was lost when she struck in the Bay, viz. the counter entirely loose; the stern post started from the wooden ends, occasioned by the timbers being rotten; all the waterways on the upper and gun decks, fore and aft, for three planks out, started an inch and a half; two of the beams and knees sprung on the upper, and one beam entirely broke on the gun deck; the upper transom started five inches, the chocks along the stern loose, and all the main chain-plates



plates started. Every person who saw or came on board the Lion agreed, that they never saw a vessel brought into port in such a shattered state, and were surprized how she could possibly live after suffering so much damage. Captain Hopper, who assisted in towing the Guardian into the Cape, said her damages were but trifling compared to those of the Lion.

Wednesday, 27th June. Light airs and fine weather; the London came along-side, delivered to her some bales of cotton, and boxes of indigo, to lighten the ship as much as possible, as a bar lays at the mouth of the river; hove up the anchors at four P. M. and went nearer to the river; pump going as usual; ship making more than four inches of water an hour.

Thursday, 28th June. Light breezes and fine weather. At half past 10 A. M. the Neptune and Eliza got under way to take us in tow; hove up the anchor, and at four P. M. came to in five fathom water in



Mafumo or English River, about two miles above the bar.

The ship still continued making two inches water an hour, till we left her on the 18th July, when all her cargo, but about 600 bags of sugar, and the ships stores, rigging, &c. were left under charge of the third mate, Captain Sever having freighted the Britannia, Captain Clarke, to carry them to the Cape, but they were not to leave Da Lagoa for some weeks. I must observe, that during the whole of the violent weather we encountered, both Captain Sever and his officers exerted themselves wonderfully, and never quitted the deck, or other parts of the ship, where their directions and assistance was wanted; and I attribute entirely to their conduct, and having in our boatswain and carpenter two of the most active and skilful men in their line I ever saw, that either what remained of the cargo, or a foul, was saved. It frequently happens, that many lives are lost in such weather as we experienced, in losing masts,  
but

but no accident of any consequence occurred during the whole time, although there was a crew of upwards of one hundred men on board.

The following short account of this part of Africa may, I hope, in some measure, prove useful to any ship going there : it would have been much more so, had I had a boat at my command during our short stay in the river ; as it was, I could go on shore but seldom, and then but for a few hours at a time, and my state of health would not permit me to go for any distance into the country. I could have made a tolerable survey but for the reason above-mentioned. I trust, however, what I have written will be found correct, should it be visited again.

Da Lagoa Bay, situated in about  $25^{\circ} 52'$  south latitude, and in longitude  $33^{\circ}$  east of London, is large and capacious, being nearly 30 miles deep from east to west, and about 60 miles long from north to south. It is, however, very little known, as the charts I have seen

of



of it are very incorrect, Deer Island being not laid down in them. It is much frequented by south-sea whalers. The whales come into the bay in the month of June to cub, and leave it in September, when their calves are sufficiently strong to accompany them to sea. They are called right whales, and are commonly about 60 feet long, and make about eight tons of oil: some are much larger. They are this season (1798) very numerous. As the whalers' time is entirely taken up in fishing and boiling down, it is therefore, in some measure, excusable, that some of them do not publish a plan of a port which ought certainly to be much better known; and if, on the peace with the French and Dutch, we retain the Cape, "which I hope to God we will," no place, in my opinion, can be so well calculated to form a settlement, in being a commodious harbour, and having several large rivers, particularly Masumo or English River, being navigable for large vessels, having four fathom on the bar at the entrance in spring-tides, and is four miles broad: the channel is, however, narrow, not more I believe than  
one



one mile over. Captain Hopper, who has obligingly given me every information in his power, as he has been here frequently, was told by the Portuguese who were settled here, that it is navigable for veffels drawing about twelve feet water for upwards of 30 or 40 miles, and for large boats feveral hundred; and, from its appearance, I really think it is fo. Ships commonly lie about two miles up the river, where you have a good depth of water, and lie perfectly fafe from all winds, with plenty of every fort of refreshment, fuch as excellent beef, goats, fowls, fifh, fweet potatoes, cabbage and greens, lemons, bananas, &c. and plenty of good water on both fides the river.

I would advife a fhip coming into the bay to ftand to the N. and N. N. W. till fhe come into between eight and nine fathoms water, and brings Cape St. Mary's to bear S. by E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. (allowing for the variation, which is two points westerly), diftance near three leagues, and you fee high breakers extending for near feven miles to the



the northward of it; coming near them, you always shoal your water, but deepen it as you keep further off; then stand to the westward, i. e. W. by S. West, and W. by N. by the compass, you will meet with frequent riplings; but if you come in at half flood, you will never have less than four fathoms, and there are a number of shoals, flats, and shifting sands in the bay, occasioned by the tide and different rivers that run into it. They shift, I understand, with every spring tide, or when it blows strong from the eastward, which is the only wind that occasions any sea in the bay; but a vessel may ride with perfect safety in many parts of the bay in good holding ground, and sufficient depth of water. The soundings are very uneven and irregular all over the bay, as you have ten fathoms, then five, then no ground at 13, and the next throw of the lead but four fathoms water.

Deer Island is the nearest land you will have coming in: it is low and sandy, with short brush wood, and is about three or four miles long: it has a reef extending  
for



for two or three miles out, bearing from N. W. to E. N. E. Half flood is the best time for a ship to stand in, the tide rising rather more than twelve feet, (it is high water at full and change at four P. M.) and having sent your boats a-head on the tide's making, and with a leading wind, or two points free, you may very easily escape every danger. The Red Head is a pretty high, bluff, red point, being the north point of Mafumo River; it is clearly cut; the opposite point is not so high; keep rather more than one mile off the Red Head, and you will have the deepest water in crossing the bar, as, on the other shore, there is a bank which extends more than a mile out, and part of it is dry at low water.

The inhabitants of Da Lagoa are Caffres, of a bright black colour, but not numerous, as I do not recollect ever seeing more than one hundred or an hundred and fifty at one time, altho' they crowd round you when you come on shore, therefore do not suppose they exceed six, or at most ten thousand, about the bay: they, in general,

E

are



are a tall, stout, strong, and well made race, and, to all appearances, healthy ; but great numbers of the men are afflicted with the hydrocele: they go about nearly naked, and the women only use a small narrow piece of cloth, with two or more pieces of leather hanging down behind, ornamented with beads, and coloured or tanned with red earth. The men have mostly the paint of an antelope's or deer's horn, which they use as a call or whistle, suspended by a string about their necks: they have, likewise, wooden and ivory ones, and they hang several brass buttons, pieces of broken china, and some of them with a number of goose quills strung together, and different sorts of roots, to which they attribute some medicinal virtue. I have brought some quantity of it with me, and have found it to be an aromatic, and a great astringent. I have seen them use it to stop any bleeding wound, with success, by chewing and applying it to the part: it is likewise used by them to cure pains in the bowels, and they assured me that it always succeeded.

They



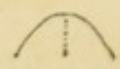
They dress their hair in different modes, some of them taking great pains with it, oiling it frequently; but I never could observe two dressed exactly in the same manner. They shave with a piece of iron, formerly a large nail made into a small chisel, without using water, or any other substitute; and, in general, shave all the hair off their heads but a large tuft in the middle of the crown, which they dress up, by putting in some small pieces of stick, and sewing them in, to bring it to the shape of a sugar-loaf with the point cut off. Some of the men, I have observed, left two large tufts on each side of the head, which they ornamented with pieces of brass the size of our common buttons, with a hole made in them to pull the hair through. Both sexes shave all the hair off their eyebrows, only leaving two small tufts in the middle. The women shave all their heads but a small piece over the crown of the shape of a half-moon. They shave or pull out all the hair of their bodies, except under the arms, laying and rubbing ashes on the hair, and then



pulling it out. Most of the men and women of rank wear brass bangles, or bracelets, on their necks and wrists, and I have seen several women with them round their necks three inches in circumference, and weighing four or five pounds. The men wear them smaller, having several rows, and likewise from the wrist up to the elbow on both arms, (those on the neck angular, but those on the wrists circular.) Those about their necks seemed to give them pain, as they could not easily turn their heads; but as it is a mark of rank, and worn only till a certain age, they do not of course like to lay them aside.

I could not, however, learn at what age or time they left them off, but I never saw any worn by men much past thirty; they always told me, they were given them by their fathers. Both men and women wear rings on their fingers and toes, and some of both sexes copper chains just under the knee; the women decorate their necks likewise with large blue, and other coloured glass beads,

beads, but the poorer sort have but very few ornaments : the women are always anointed with oil, mixed with red earth, which is easily procured here.

They are all tattowed, some down the middle of the forehead, and point of the chin, in this way  ; and of their temples, of this shape X : their bodies are so likewise, particularly on the chest, but none of them exactly alike ; those, however, of the same family, are tattowed very nearly in the same manner.

Polygamy is allowed, and they purchase their wives from the father, giving a certain number of bullocks, perhaps ten, or not so many, for each : their chief, however, comes in for a certain number, and he of course encourages this custom. Divorces are not in fashion at Da Lagoa, for the men are all faithful, and the women, though nearly naked, virtuous ; and from particular enquiries among them, found that they were surprized at my even asking such a question, telling me, *that woman,*  
*that*



*that man wife*; yet there are a class of them who come on ship-board that lessen the general character, but these are very justly considered as outcasts; their numbers are not very considerable, nor will they even permit of a promiscuous intercourse with different men.

Their mode of salutation is *ching, ching*, which they repeat rapidly, (*laying great emphasis on the last ching*), offering you one of their hands, bowing down at the same time; but they seem to make no difference or distinction in which hand they offer. *Saheb* is used by some of them after *ching, ching*, but not frequent: both are friendly. They seem a very good natured and harmless race, being always good humoured, and laughing heartily on the slightest occasions, particularly in trading, when you offer less than they think their commodities are worth, calling, *ha, hah*; but a very cunning set, great Jews, and they will take you in if you do not mind them, for they always ask three or four times more than the value. They are prone to revenge  
if



if affronted, for they then take an opportunity of murdering you; but this is only attended with danger to the person who has been the aggressor. I heard of an instance of the carpenter of a whaler having been killed by them, being taken for a man whom he much resembled, that had insulted some of them some time before. At the time the poor man was killed, two boats landed at the same place for wood: they seized the poor man, who had gone some distance from the boats, and run two or three spears through his body. Some of the men heard his cries, and came and carried him to the boats, and several of the natives came and assisted them in getting their boats off.

They are a very honest set of people, but great beggars, on the the north side particularly: this they have learnt, I imagine, from the Portuguese. During our stay we never met with an instance of their taking any thing that was not given or sold to them, although they often had opportunities, as the decks of the *Lion* were  
always



always crowded with them, from eight o'clock in the morning till four in the afternoon. I am convinced, that if a settlement were formed here, they would soon become a very useful set of people, and nothing but their not having any method of making cloth prevents their being decently clad, as they are very partial to any kind of clothing, even an old jacket, shirt, waistcoat, handkerchief, breeches, stockings or shoes, with which you may purchase fowls, fish, eggs, &c. which they bring off in their boats: hats are in great demand among them, and so are wigs. Several of King Capalleh's sons, about twelve or fourteen years old, used to come frequently on board the Lion, dressed out in old wigs, which they were very proud of. All the labour and work is done by the women, and you will see them working in the fields, cutting down wood, &c. the men attending them armed. It is not uncommon to meet the women, with a child on their backs, in a goat's skin, with a heavy burthen on their heads, travelling for miles along the beach: however, when the men come on ship board, they



they will work a whole day for a handful of fugar, called by them *English honey*; but, though they have plenty of fugar-cane, they are perfectly ignorant of the process of extracting the fugar: they were of great use to us in the Lion while discharging her cargo, as some of the damaged bags of fugar used to be given them, and they would often work at the tackle-fall, and ten or twelve of them would do as much in two hours as the Lascars in nearly a whole day, they being very weak, from the constant labour and excessive fatigue they had undergone for some time before, though very few ill. In going to any of their villages, you find the men mostly sitting in circles round a fire, smoaking tobacco and bang, dressing their hair, making bird-cages, or some other trivial occupation, while the women were employed in beating Indian corn, maize, rice, and other necessary occupations. It appears very extraordinary that they are ignorant of any sort of game or amusement, which is the more remarkable, as time must lay heavy on their hands. Indeed, I cannot but rejoice at their ignorance, for in most other

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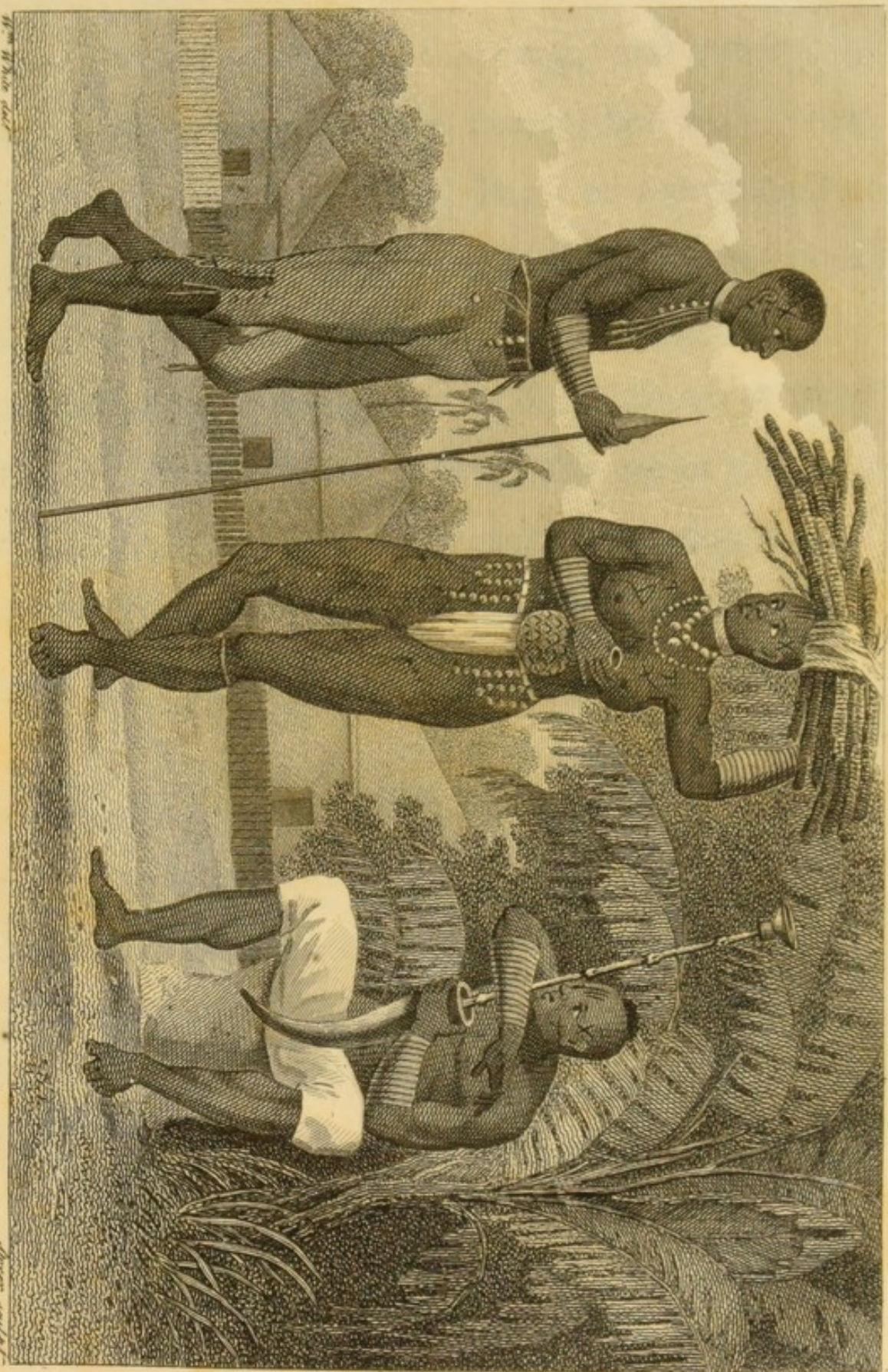
countries,



countries, particularly in India, the men would gamble in some way or other, and after losing all the property they had, stake their wives and children.

Their huts, or cabins, are neat and circular, with only one door, and a yard in front of it, surrounded with palisades, or stumps of trees, about four feet high: they are, in general, about fifteen feet in diameter, with a circular fire place in the middle, of two or three feet in circumference, with a small drain, or hollow, round it, for putting their heels in when they sit down: they have neither chairs nor stools, using the back-bone of the whale, but some of the better sort have a bed raised on four sticks, about two feet from the ground; others have a bed place neatly plastered with mud, raised at the head in shape of a pillow. Both men and women of the better sort are always smoking tobacco in iron pipes, the shape of a common tobacco pipe: making them must cost much trouble, as they set a great value on, and do not like to sell or part with them. The men  
smoke





*Natives of the South side the River Mapumno, one of them smoking Banga.*

*Published Feb. 2<sup>o</sup> 1800, by T. Stockdale, Tricardilly.*





smoke bang in the following curious manner: they take a hollow bamboo, about four feet long, and put one of the ends into a large cow's horn, nearly filled with water, putting the bang in a small Chillum, or receptacle, on the top of it, then, having lighted it, they put the top of the horn, that contains the bamboo, in the bend of the arm, *at the elbow*, drawing the smoke through a small aperture, which they form between the top of the horn and the arm: this makes them cough exceedingly, and they do it in a very affected manner, but they enjoy it vastly.

Their common food is fish, Indian corn, rice, and maize; but they eat any thing, and with a most voracious appetite, (cheese only excepted), even the entrails of a goat, or bullock, merely squeezing out the contents of the bowels, and putting it on the fire, without any further ceremony, and devouring it when hardly warm: sea cows, or the dead whales which come on shore in the river, do not escape them. They feed their



slaves taken in war on grafs and water, and I ſaw ſome of them the pooreſt objects I ever beheld. Tho' no advocate for the ſlave trade, yet I conſider that it would have been, I am ſure, a Chriſtian-like act to have purchaſed ſome of thoſe that were offered us, for the immense price of *a bottle of Rum, or Arrack!* They were perfectly deſtitute of every ſort of clothing, and had no food given them. I enquired how they could poſſibly ſubſiſt; one of the natives told me, *ſame as bullock*, and that, in times of great ſcarcity, they themſelves were obliged to eat grafs: their being in want is ſolely occaſioned by their very great indolence; for, if you give them any ſort of garden feeds, they will take it, but ten to one if they will even be at the trouble of ſowing it; the vegetables we uſed to get, were thoſe that remained and grew in the gardens the Portugueſe had made, but they were never at any pains to cultivate them. Young pigs have often been given to the natives, but they have invariably killed them.

They



They are exceeding partial to spirits of any sort, the stronger the better: this they call *strong drams*, drinking it by itself in very great quantities, but I saw only one who would not take any without diluting it with water. I have seen many of them drink, or rather gulp down, several tumblers of brandy, previously mixed with red pepper, not appearing in the least affected by it, and asking you in a few minutes after for more.

That they have a conception of a Supreme Being I cannot doubt, but I never could observe, or learn, that they possess any mode of religious worship, except some idea of the Mahometan, (*but they have no mosques, nor any churches or places intended for religious ceremonies*). This, however, is occasioned by a communication with Surat and Mosambique, for there was a Mahomedan priest, and two or three Musulmen, then at Da Lagoa; they were to remain till next season, when they expected a vessel to come and carry them back. As some trade is still carried on by the Portuguese, and  
several



several remained behind, they used to come on board the Lion frequently. They are all circumcised, taking it by turns, or years; this year, 1798, there were a great many young men and boys circumcised on the north side of the river. One of the natives of the south side of the river informed me, that next year they would circumcise on their side, as there would then be a sufficient number. Immediately after the operation is performed, which is on the sea, or river side, they are put in the water to stop the bleeding, but are not permitted to come near their huts till perfectly recovered: they, however, enjoy this period as a sort of jubilee, or festival, keeping all together under an old man, whose orders and directions they are obliged to obey; and they are continually singing, dancing, and enjoying themselves by rambling about. The first time I went on shore on the north side the river, I was accompanied by several Commanders of the ships; here the Portuguese had a small fort, lately destroyed by the French: it was square, with a very narrow dry ditch, and  
commanded



commanded by several hills quite near it: the French levelled it to the ground, and took all the stores, guns, &c. but one, a twelve pounder, the trunnions of which were knocked off, with them. The natives flocked round us to the number of a hundred and fifty, or two hundred, with about forty who had lately been circumcised, in their war dress, which consists of a large cap made of rushes; it pulls down over the face when they are engaged in battle, having two holes for the eyes. They ornament them with red and white beads; they likewise hang reeds round the neck and waist; each armed with a small spear similar to those used by the natives of Madagascar; this they throw with great exactness thirty or forty yards, hitting a very small object at that distance: there are some of them, I am informed, so expert, as to kill sea-gulls on the wing. They entertained us with a sort of dance and chorus, not unlike what I have seen in the Carnatic by school boys, but much more correct and exact, keeping good time in dancing, and in all their responses; they were drawn  
up



up two deep, and I attended particularly, and heard them sing in different parts; they then formed themselves into a column, afterwards into a circle, and continued dancing for some time, exerting themselves exceedingly; they stopped of a sudden, sounded their whistles, and dispersed, screaming and hallooing, some of them receiving checks from their master for not being more perfect in their parts. This done, they came up to, and saluted us in their way. I gave most of them some snuff, which they liked exceedingly, from its being very pungent, and making them sneeze.

As I have been very often on shore, going through their different villages, I used to meet with great attention from both men and women, who frequently asked us if we wanted any thing, and gave milk and water. They were particularly pleased when we addressed them in their own language; if you brought any fish, or shot any thing, they would dress it for you, but you would frequently find that they extorted something in return,

as



as they commonly asked for a handkerchief, waistcoat, and in short, if you permitted them, they would cut off your buttons ; but, on appearing in the least dissatisfied, they would instantly desist.

There are fourteen chiefs on the south side the river, viz. Capelleh, Joveh, Wangoveh, Mutwal, Mallambaneh, Wancome, Panelleh, Maputeh, Machelembey, Corro, Chenandlo, Gomano, Machechewan, and Goumano, with several other petty ones, too numerous to mention. They are all, however, tributary to Capelleh, for their country is given them by him : he is of course the most powerful on the south side. His dominions, by what I could learn, extend about two hundred miles up the country, and about one hundred along the coast, or, as the native who gave me the information told me, ten days journey long, and five broad. None of the other chiefs are so well known, having but little intercourse with them ; as the ships that come in the river anchor



near Capelleh's kingdom, and the whalers lay out in the bay, opposite to Deer Island, except when in want of water. One of the whalers sent a boat to Elephant Island for ambergrease, while we were there; the mate informed me the chief treated him very well, and though he could not procure what he went for, yet he got plenty of fowls, &c. Capelleh is very jealous if you carry on any communication with any of the other chiefs. Sometimes it is necessary, if he does not supply you with what provisions you may want, to say that such a chief has offered to supply you. This commonly succeeds; and he would sooner distress himself than that any of the other chiefs should get any of your blue cloth or spiritous liquors. Joveh is next in authority to Capelleh, being his nephew; but the government is hereditary, as Wangoveh, his eldest son, succeeds at his death. There are only four chiefs on the north side, viz. Wambo, Mafferent, Mavote, and Mafumo, where they appear quite a different set of people. Mafumo was the most powerful

ful

ful in the time of the Portugeze, as they used to assist him in his wars; but, since their departure, Wambo has taken his country from him. He was considered as a prisoner, and came on board twice with the secretaries of Wambo, who wished to trade with us; but as we understood that Capelleh was not on good terms with him, we would not, having been told that he was not to be trusted. Mafumo, though a prisoner, had not, however, lost his appetite, for he eat and drank enough for half a dozen porters. Wambo's secretaries were dressed in long red gowns, and appeared to despise the people from the south side. Capelleh, I am convinced, is in great dread of him, by what I could learn from some of his people: one of them told me, that nothing but the river prevented Wambo's attacking Capelleh, but that if it was known he had given any such information, Capelleh would put him to death. The natives of the north side are a ferocious and warlike set of men, while those on the south possess a great deal of good nature, and are much more civilized.



I have seen Capelleh several times. He is a tall, thin, elderly man, I suppose about sixty: his only purpose on coming down was to get presents, and spiritous liquor, which he is immoderately fond of: about nine miles up the country is his palace, if it deserves such a title, the plan being just the same as that of their common huts, but much larger. He was always accompanied by two or three queens, and attended with a guard of thirty men, armed with spears and battle-axes made out of large spike nails. Some of them had shields made out of rhinoceros hide, and other skins.

When we learnt of his arrival at the king of the water's house, (i. e. master attendant) I accompanied several of the Captains of the ships to pay our respects to him, all of us carrying presents; when they were given him, he testified his approbation by ah, ah, calling out very frequently wahombea, i. e. *very good*; but he seldom thinks, however, of making a return, without your hinting it. I gave him a red gold laced waistcoat,  
and



and a breast-plate engraved with his Majesty's arms, the regimental of the 73d Highland regiment; with these he immediately retired into a hut, and returned full dressed in them. All the natives, when you give them any clothing, put it on immediately. I told him they belonged to King George, and he seemed vastly pleased and proud of them. He wore at this time the naval uniform of the Dutch East India Company (green and white) with two gold epaulets, cocked hat, with the national cockade, which I told him "*was the most infamous badge that could be worn by a king,*" and red breeches. He seemed to be, however, more particularly taken with some kegs and case bottles of rum and brandy, which were presented him: he soon seized hold of one of the bottles, eager to taste its contents, and retired with it into the hut, where I, at his request, followed, and saw him and his favourite queen finish it in about a quarter of an hour, calling to all round him, every time he drank, *ching, ching*. He took particular notice of me, as I was dressed in my regimentals, and offered



offered me some, but I refused him : he then took hold of my hand, called out ching, ching, ordered me different sorts of nuts roasted, and some fresh milk, which was a much greater treat to me, not having had any for some months; he, however, took special care not to offer any to his followers, as he would not have met with a refusal : several of them looked at him with a longing eye every time he drank. He then went out and made us a present of two fine bullocks, and said he would go on board the Lion next day, if fine weather. He, however, went up into the country that evening, as, from her size, and being called a man of war, he did not like to venture on board. I am certain that his real reason was for fear of being kept prisoner till something valuable was given for his ransom, as I heard that he has been invited on board some ships and treated so. He would have met with a very different reception in the Lion, as Captain Sever was determined to salute him, and make him some handsome presents. The Lion being larger than any ship they have seen since  
the

the Kent was there, in 1747, was always called *King George ship : man of war ! hundred guns, two hundred men*. It is, however, too true, that some of the natives, who have worked on board some whalers for several weeks, when in want of hands, have been taken away and sold for slaves at the Cape. I have heard them asked after by their friends and wives at Da Lagoa. The person is well known by many who were then there: a very infamous transaction, and, should it be continued, may prove very serious to people going there: I am happy in stating, that, Earl Macartney, to whom I made known the circumstance, found some of them out, redeemed them from slavery, and they were to be sent to their native country by the first opportunity.

King Capelleh, and indeed most of his subjects, seem particularly attached to the English, often talking of *King George*, and why he did not send soldiers and people to build a fort and houses.



The best article to bring to trade with here is coarse blue cloth; ambergrease is to be procured in return, with plenty of elephant and sea-cows' teeth, particularly the latter, which you can purchase for a mere trifle, being very numerous in the river, as we used to see them often. They come on shore at night, when the natives watch for and kill them. The natives do not seem fond of parting with the elephant's teeth without something valuable, as they set a great price on them; but this is not by any means too high, for they would be purchased much under a guinea each. As we did not come here to trade, and the whalers were not permitted, we did not have many, and made no enquiry if they had any thing else except skins for sale. We used to purchase a bullock of 400lb. weight for a piece of coarse blue linen cloth, ten or twelve yards long, which could be bought at the Cape for four or five rix dollars, and a fowl for an iron hoop. I have procured five good fowls for ten old buttons. Formerly you could get every thing much more reasonable than  
at



at present, as every person made his own bargain, and iron hoops were a mere drug, owing to the whalers that were taken up to carry the Lion's cargo knocking up all their casks.

Ships coming here to furnish themselves with a good stock of fresh provisions, should bring coarse blue linen cloth, old clothes, brass rings, pieces of copper wire, glass beads of different colours, the larger the better, tobacco and pipes, knives, hats, wigs, shoes and stockings; in short, for a mere trifle, you may victual a ship of any size, and we found that the beef took the salt exceedingly well.

Several Persees, from the Malabar coast, have sent small vessels here at different times; and I understood, from some of the Portugueze, who were left behind when their fort was destroyed by the French, that a ship came every year from Mosambique.

H

When



When you go to the territories of the other chiefs, they treat you well, and trade for the same articles I have already mentioned. The king of the water is similar to master attendant. He informs Capelleh when any ship comes into the bay, or river, and you cannot purchase a bullock till the king comes down to his house close to the landing place, at a large tree on the south side, where you must make him a present of old clothes and liquor. He gives you, in return, a bullock, and after that you can get one or two every day. The king of the water is nearly as powerful as Capelleh, and has a great number of cattle. He comes on board your ship, remains as long as you like, and will accompany any officer on shore to trade; keep on good terms with him, and you can get every thing that is to be procured here.

Their boats are nearly of the shape of a fishing coble, and are, to look at, the most ill-contrived of any that I have ever seen: they are sewed together with the bark  
of



of trees, fimilar to thofe ufed on the coaft of Coroman-  
del, the seams payed with cow dung: they do not ufe  
oars, but fculls made fimilar to thofe in ufe all over  
India, with one maft and a mat-fail: they are flat-bot-  
tomed, about twelve feet long, and four broad, and  
row well, as you will fee only one rower, and fome-  
times from twelve to twenty people in the boat: they  
never have more than two rowers: they bring every  
thing they have for fale in thefe boats about nine in  
the morning, and leave you about four in the afternoon.  
Thefe boats frequently go off in the bay when it blows  
from the fouth eaft.

You get a variety of very fine fifh, all of a moft  
excellent quality, much fuperior to any I have feen  
in India: they are wholefome good food, and coft  
a mere trifle. Mullet, carp, conger eels, with the  
ftone-fifh, common in India, having a bone in the head  
like a ftone, fun-fifh, fkate fhrimps, prawns, crabs,  
H 2 oysters,



oysters, cockles, &c. are the different forts. Turtle is taken on Deer Island and in Cow Bay.

The soil on the south side is a rich, light, black earth, where they cultivate their maize, rice, and Indian corn: it requires very little trouble preparing it for seed, as they only turn it over with a stick. The seed is put into the ground in December or January. Where the ground is not cultivated you meet with a fine rich grass, which was long even at this time of the year, June and July, the dry season. The soil on the north side is lighter, much more sandy, and not so fit for cultivation. The fair season commences in April, and continues till October, when the rainy season comes in. We could get but few cabbages and greens, but plenty of the large white sweet potatoes, which are of a very good quality. The red fort are small, but in great abundance; they are eat raw by the natives; yams are scarce. Here are none of the common potatoes, but I am convinced they would thrive; and I was informed, by  
some



some of the Portugueze, that they have plenty of vegetables in the wet season, and might have all the year round, if they would be at the trouble to dig wells, as water is to be procured in many situations well adapted for gardens. Indeed, the vegetables that are now to be got grow wild, for they take no trouble with them, being found in the old gardens where the Portugueze had formerly sown them. You likewise get plenty of bananas, lemons, pine-apples, wood-apples, love-apples, cassava-root, ground-nuts, and a small root, or nut, which is eat raw by the natives, and tastes just like a potatoe when boiled, but much richer and sweeter. They are common at the Cape of Good Hope, and served up in many families as part of the desert after dinner. I saw the castor oil plant, and some young Palmyra trees, on the north side the river; they have been planted by the Portugueze, and seem to do well.

The birds I observed here were guinea hens, partridges, and quails, but not in great numbers; the natives told me,



me, that some distance up the country they were very numerous; likewise wild geese, ducks, &c. with many small and other singing birds.

They have neither horses, asses, nor buffaloes, nor have they the least idea of employing their bullocks in any useful manner. I shewed one of the most intelligent of the natives the drawing of a horse, he told me that he had been some distance up the country, and had seen one. They have numbers of dogs and cats, the former a breed between a mastiff and grey-hound. The leopard, or spotted tyger, is common; they bring you their skins, and a variety of the tyger-cat, or some other animals, but I never could get a sight of any of them. The rhinoceros is likewise a native of Da Lagoa, as is also the elephant, only further up the country. On Deer Island there are plenty of antelopes, but I never saw any during our stay: rabbits and hares are here, but not numerous, as we never got any; but I saw their skins frequently. They hunt the leopard with  
dogs,



dogs, and, as they are very expert at throwing their spears, seldom miss them. Capelleh is a great sportsman, and very excellent spearfman, He has killed most of the hares, and indeed every thing he chooses to attack, even the wild-hog; but as these sometimes kill their dogs, they do not often attack them, from its being attended with considerable danger, and they set a great value on their dogs.

The point where I would recommend a fort to be built upon, should a settlement be formed here, is on the south side the river, about two miles from the mouth, as it is the most central situation, not commanded by any ground, and a flat, rich spot for many miles round it, with some of the finest garden ground I ever saw; has plenty of water, could soon be cleared, and the river there is not more than a mile broad, so that you could effectually prevent any boats, or vessels, passing up or down. To the westward of the point is an inlet that goes up for some miles into the country,

which



which would be a sufficient guard on that side, in case of any danger of being attacked by the natives, or other enemies; and should the present contest with France continue for any time, it would be a most convenient place for the men of war, cruizing off the Mauritius, to come in and refresh at, instead of losing so much time in going back to the Cape, where they often meet with bad weather, and are detained by contrary winds, particularly in the months of June, July, and August, when the north west wind always prevails, which is the fine season at Da Lagoa; and to ships which have been on long cruizes and otherwise shattered, it is a very dangerous and hazardous attempt, for there is hardly a safe port on the southern part of Africa but Simon's Bay.

I would have a signal house, and battery, erected on the Red Head, which is a very commanding situation, and no ship can pass by it, as they must come nearer that point than the one on the south shore, where you might likewise have a signal port, if found requisite.

Should



Should it ever be in the contemplation of government to attack the Isle of France, this would be a most excellent rendezvous for the fleet, as you might land and encamp the troops, and procure them fresh beef and vegetables, with plenty of fine fish.

Just before our departure, I accompanied the captains of the ships on shore, where we were received, with the greatest marks of attention, by King Capelleh, attended with his usual guard, he having expressed a wish to see us. When we landed, they divided themselves into two ranks on each side of the chief, with their spears rested on the ground: he then made several presents of goats to some of the party: after which we sat down on the beach with the chief and his retinue, when one of them approached his chief, bowed, and kneeled down three times, then got up and danced in a very curious manner, exerting himself wonderfully, by tumbling and rolling on the ground, founding his antelope's horn, and other calls, giving a variety of tones, which pleased the



chief and his followers so much, that they shouted and laughed very heartily. He continued this violent exercise for half an hour, when he ran into the midst of some bushes close to us, and returned in a minute or two, gave a loud shout, ran into the water, and swam about for some minutes, then came out and sat down at his chief's feet, who expressed great marks of approbation at the feats he had performed. They then got up, and we accompanied them to their huts, where we sat down, and were offered a drink composed of Indian corn and sugar boiled in milk, which we found a very pleasant beverage. We were now given to understand by *Johannes*, secretary to king Capelleh, that his majesty intended performing some wonderful feat; when a spear was brought him by one of his attendants, after poizing it for a minute or two, he threw it with great strength and exactness into a small bush, about one hundred yards off, which he previously mentioned he would hit; his attendants then shouted very loud for some time, when they sat down and regaled themselves



selves with the drink of Indian corn and milk. This done we took our leave.

The language is the same all about the bay, but, as they are perfectly illiterate, it is pronounced differently; and I found, in consequence, great difficulty in spelling some of the words, not any two sounding them alike; but as I tried numbers of them, and as, after I had completed my vocabulary, they understood me, I was perfectly satisfied.

I was for some days before I could get the numbers, as I could not find any who understood what I meant by twenty or thirty, they counting by tens; as to a hundred, they did not know what it meant, but expressing a great many more than they had any idea of. Several of the natives speak English tolerably well, particularly *John Innee*, an old man, and *Johannes*, son to the king of the water, secretary to Capelleh, who is by far the most sensible and best informed of any natives of the place,



as he was the only one I could make comprehend what I wanted, particularly in finding out the numbers.

They cannot pronounce the *th* in the English, without a good deal of difficulty, calling health, *hell*; that, *tat*, &c.

The climate of Da Lagoa I think healthy; we all found it so, and the whalers remain out for many nights in their boats, exposed to the dews, which are heavy, without ever experiencing any evil effects; in the hot and rainy seasons it may not be so, but the natives look well, and many of them live to a great age. A colony formed here could subsist themselves in a very short time, as they might have all the Indian and a great many European productions, being but two hundred leagues from St. Augustin's Bay, one hundred and fifty from Mosambique, and four hundred and fifty from the Cape, where you might easily procure plants, garden seeds, &c. &c.

Capelleh

Capelleh would sell a sufficient spot for a colony of fix hundred people, for a cask or two of rum or brandy per annum.

The whole face of the country is truly pleasant. From the Red Head you have as fine a prospect as I ever saw. You can see the river for many miles up with fine woods on each side. It wants nothing but houses to render it completely enchanting.

St. Mary's, Elephant, and Deer Island, are plainly seen, the latter not being more than two leagues distant. Mount Calato, or Calico, is likewise perceptible; but the land to the southward and westward is not, though it was a very clear fine day when I was on the top of the Red Head. The land to the eastward of it extends in the direction of E. N. E.; it is not high, but rises in four different ranges of hills, till lost in the clouds.

I now



I now conclude my remarks on Da Lagoa Bay, trusting to those who may be at the trouble of perusing them, to bear in mind that they were written hastily, without any assistance, and in a bad state of health; this, together with my never having attempted any thing of the kind before, and the disadvantages I have mentioned in page 21, will plead more for its incorrectness than any thing I can possibly say in its defence.

18th July. Embarked in the London, Captain Keen, having previously made arrangements with him for my passage to the Cape of Good Hope, and Captain Sever leaving it to my choice which ship I would wish to go in. Lieutenant Wright, 52d regiment, agreed to go with Captain Hopper, in the Neptune.

19th. At day light got under way, and dropped down to the shipping in the bay, laying opposite to Deer Island.

20th.



20th. Got under way at 10 A. M. with the wind at E. S. E. in consequence we were obliged to tack all the way out. About 2 P. M. the ship struck, although only drawing about sixteen feet water when in the shoal. Cape St. Mary's bore S. S. E. three or four leagues north point of the Island S. S. W. by compass, the ship swinging round with a strong ebb tide, and the wind dying away. We luckily got the ship off at 3 P. M. after sending the boats out without receiving any damage, got out past all danger, and came to at 5 P. M. in seven fathom water; Cape St. Mary's S. by E. five or six leagues; Elephant Island S. W. by S. five leagues, and north point of St. Mary's Island S. S. W.

21st. July. At 7 A. M. it blowing hard from the S. E. and the ship driving, tried to get up the anchor but could not weigh it, and getting into shoal water cut the cable and ran out to sea. On the 22d of August we happily anchored in Table Bay, after encountering many severe gales of wind, in one of which we shipped a most tremendous sea that stove several of our boats.

I was



I was happy on my arrival there to find that a fleet of Indiamen had just arrived in Simon's Bay from Bengal, and immediately secured a passage in the Prince William Henry, Captain Baskett; but in consequence of an embargo being laid on all vessels then in either of the bays, till the sailing of his Majesty's ship Sceptre, and the transports that were to carry the 84th regiment, commanded by Colonel Murray, and the Scotch brigade, commanded by Colonel Scott, two very fine corps, both as to appearance and discipline, to India, we only left the Cape on the 4th of November, and arrived at St. Helena on the 19th. On the 2d December arrived his Majesty's ship Stately, with Earl Macartney; and we sailed from St. Helena on the 5th December; got soundings on the 26th January, at 8 P. M.; happily arrived off Dover on the 3d of February, where I went on shore in the first boat, after an absence of nearly sixteen years from my native clime.

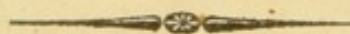
# VOCABULARY OF THE LANGUAGE.

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A man	—	—	—	<i>Monhee</i>
A boy	—	—	—	<i>Tongua</i>
A child	—	—	—	<i>Lusaane</i>
A woman	—	—	—	<i>Aduball</i>
A young woman	—	—	—	<i>Wansaate</i>
A girl	—	—	—	<i>Wanbouyana</i>
The head	—	—	—	<i>Sacko</i>
The mouth	—	—	—	<i>Nomo</i>
The lips	—	—	—	<i>Anahasee</i>
The nose	—	—	—	<i>Numpbo</i>
The tongue	—	—	—	<i>Loodjim</i>
A tooth	—	—	—	<i>Menho</i>
The eyes	—	—	—	<i>Teesho</i>
The ears	—	—	—	<i>Gevea</i>
The hair	—	—	—	<i>Shifs</i>
The neck	—	—	—	<i>Nammoo</i>
An arm	—	—	—	<i>Boco</i>
The hand	—	—	—	<i>Mandba</i>
A finger	—	—	—	<i>Tenteebo</i>
The thumb	—	—	—	<i>Tenteebo colou</i>
The nails	—	—	—	<i>Wallab</i>



The back	—	—	—	<i>Thaco</i>
The chest	—	—	—	<i>Chephouva</i>
The breasts	—	—	—	<i>Mabellea</i>
The belly	—	—	—	<i>Couzie</i>
The thigh	—	—	—	<i>Thombee</i>
The knee	—	—	—	<i>Tollo</i>
A foot	—	—	—	<i>Chizenda</i>
A joint	—	—	—	<i>Bhootanganou</i>



Sleep	—	—	—	<i>Nigh-tela</i>
Awake	—	—	—	<i>Afoukela</i>
Stand	—	—	—	<i>Emeila</i>
Sit down	—	—	—	<i>Atta meila</i>
Walk	—	—	—	<i>Meitero</i>
Rum	—	—	—	<i>Ha hombeâ</i>
Run fast	—	—	—	<i>Watta toomab</i>
Come here	—	—	—	<i>Buya taleno</i>
Come	—	—	—	<i>Taleno</i>
Bring	—	—	—	<i>Buya</i>
Go	—	—	—	<i>Mocab</i>
Away	—	—	—	<i>Hangêb</i>
Go away	—	—	—	<i>Macab hangêb</i>
Swim	—	—	—	<i>Wa shamba</i>
Dive	—	—	—	<i>One you-bella</i>

I	—	—	—	—	<i>Defambah</i>
You	—	—	—	—	<i>Weaneb</i>
Him	—	—	—	—	<i>Nawene</i>
Sick	—	—	—	—	<i>Dawagva</i>
Sore or pain	—	—	—	—	<i>Carwarweesha</i>
Wound	—	—	—	—	<i>Asheakeela</i>
A rogue	—	—	—	—	<i>Cubarw</i>
A thief	—	—	—	—	<i>Yeeva</i>
The sun	—	—	—	—	<i>Diambo</i>
The moon	—	—	—	—	<i>Moomo</i>
Light	—	—	—	—	<i>Fumallo</i>
Dark	—	—	—	—	<i>Tumbello</i>
A day	—	—	—	—	<i>Secuzengeva</i>
To-day	—	—	—	—	<i>Nemaonsha</i>
To-morrow	—	—	—	—	<i>Munrooko</i>
Wind	—	—	—	—	<i>Meyho</i>
Rain	—	—	—	—	<i>Umphulo</i>
Thunder	—	—	—	—	<i>Teelou</i>

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A coat	—	—	—	<i>Canshu</i>
A waistcoat	—	—	—	<i>Canshu tongo</i>
Breeches	—	—	—	<i>Omeleng</i>
A Handkerchief	—	—	—	<i>Untoose</i>
A Hat	—	—	—	<i>Chelembea</i>



## VOCABULARY OF

A Bottle	—	—	—	<i>Felleacie</i>
A Glafs	—	—	—	<i>Indeeboh</i>
Hungry	—	—	—	<i>Galla</i>
Eat	—	—	—	<i>Cuneab</i>
Salt	—	—	—	<i>Mun you</i>
Sugar	—	—	—	<i>Woolombea</i>
Greens	—	—	—	<i>Coffo</i>
Water	—	—	—	<i>Matee</i>
Salt water	—	—	—	<i>Nambo</i>
Milk	—	—	—	<i>Tambab</i>
Bread	—	—	—	<i>Segogood</i>
Drink	—	—	—	<i>Coono</i>
Dram	—	—	—	<i>Saffea</i>
Thirsty	—	—	—	<i>Cazelléb</i>
Drunk	—	—	—	<i>Wapoko</i>
Good	—	—	—	<i>Wabombea</i>
Bad	—	—	—	<i>Umphanéb</i>
Eggs	—	—	—	<i>Maánrow</i>
Love apples	—	—	—	<i>Chematee</i>
Plantains	—	—	—	<i>Tefenga</i>
Bang	—	—	—	<i>Bangie</i>
Tobacco	—	—	—	<i>Follay</i>
Snuff	—	—	—	<i>Follay tenomphau</i>
Tobacco pipe	—	—	—	<i>Repipaw</i>

A fowl

A fowl	—	—	—	<i>Ebooco</i>
A bullock	—	—	—	<i>Homo</i>
A duck	—	—	—	<i>Handaane</i>
Fish	—	—	—	<i>Samphee</i>
Conger eel	—	—	—	<i>Nongunamo</i>
Prawns	—	—	—	<i>Mahantee</i>
Goat	—	—	—	<i>Butéb</i>
Sheep	—	—	—	<i>Impbu</i>
Pig	—	—	—	<i>Gulloway</i>
Rhinoceros	—	—	—	<i>Mellem</i>
Elephant	—	—	—	<i>Lofo</i>
To go on shore	—	—	—	<i>Ne moucahandab</i>
To go on board ship	—	—	—	<i>Rea gallawhene</i>
Your health friend	—	—	—	<i>DaWinny innáhausab</i>
A sword	—	—	—	<i>Pangwa</i>
A dagger	—	—	—	<i>Cutawab</i>
Gunpowder	—	—	—	<i>Bushungo</i>
Ball	—	—	—	<i>Ribgea</i>
Shot	—	—	—	<i>Maganreab</i>
Musquet	—	—	—	<i>Sheballeab</i>
Cannon	—	—	—	<i>Sheballeab shecouleacoombo</i>
Flint	—	—	—	<i>Ribgea (same as a ball)</i>
Wood	—	—	—	<i>Loucoombo</i>
Chair	—	—	—	<i>Chetano</i>

A chest



A chest	—	—	—	<i>Uneafha</i>
Boat	—	—	—	<i>Shene</i>
Oar	—	—	—	<i>Coetta</i>
Sail	—	—	—	<i>Mattanga</i>
Mast	—	—	—	<i>Momma</i>
Rope	—	—	—	<i>Peena</i>
Bucket	—	—	—	<i>Baradee</i>
Hook	—	—	—	<i>Undovo</i>
Harpoon	—	—	—	<i>Coucavah</i>
Knife	—	—	—	<i>Maokwah</i>
Nail	—	—	—	<i>Numbo</i>
Cask	—	—	—	<i>Umphanteb</i>

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THE NUMBERS.

1 <i>Chinged</i>	8 <i>Thanou Trirarou</i>
2 <i>Seberey</i>	9 ——— <i>Namaunaw</i>
3 <i>Trirarou</i>	10 <i>Koumarw</i>
4 <i>Moonaw</i>	20 <i>Ma koumarw Mabdere</i>
5 <i>Thanou</i>	30 <i>Ma koumarw Mararou</i>
6 <i>Thanou Nachengeva</i>	40 <i>Tu beded imbere</i>
7 ——— <i>Natrebeexe</i>	50 <i>Tu beded inarou</i>











