

A relation of the coasts of Africk called Guinee; with a description of the countreys, manners and customs of the inhabitants; of the productions of the earth, and the merchandise and commodities it affords; with some historical observations upon the coasts. Being collected in a voyage made by the Sieur Villault, escuyer, sieur de Bellefond, in the years 1666, and 1667 / Written in French, and faithfully Englished.

Contributors

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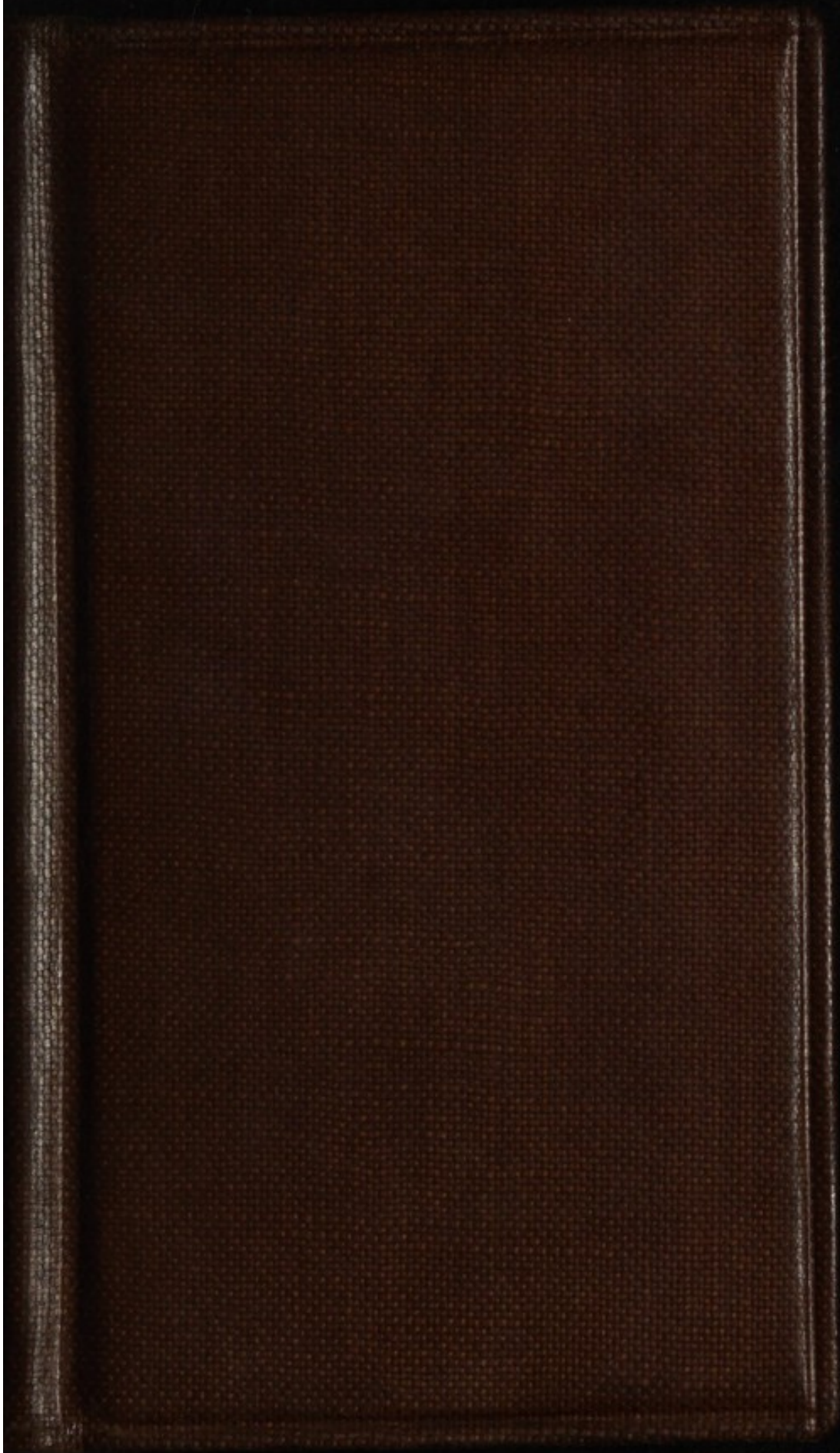
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N. VILLAOULT

RELATION
OF THE
COASTS
OF
AFRICK
CALLED
GUINEE

LONDON

1670

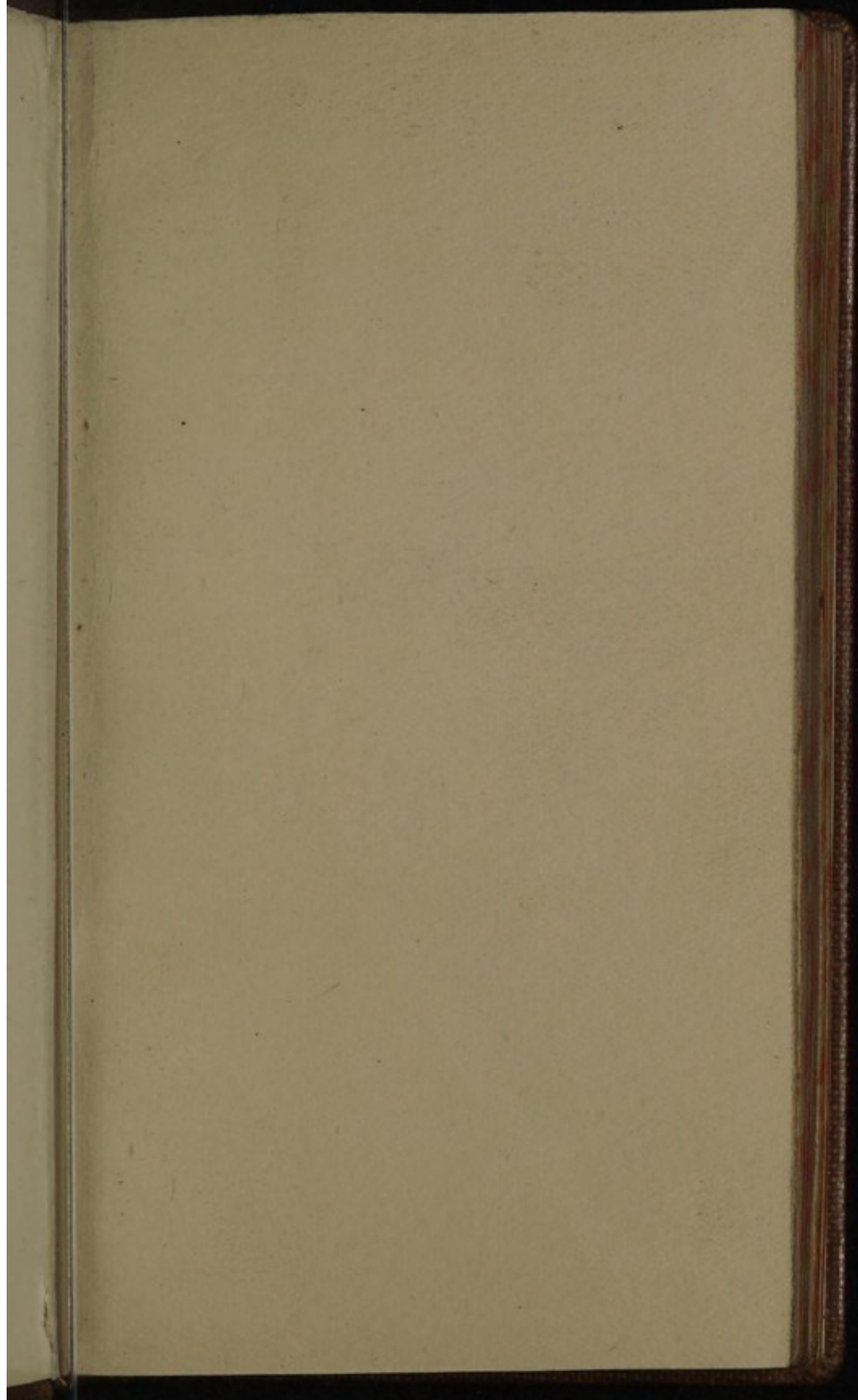


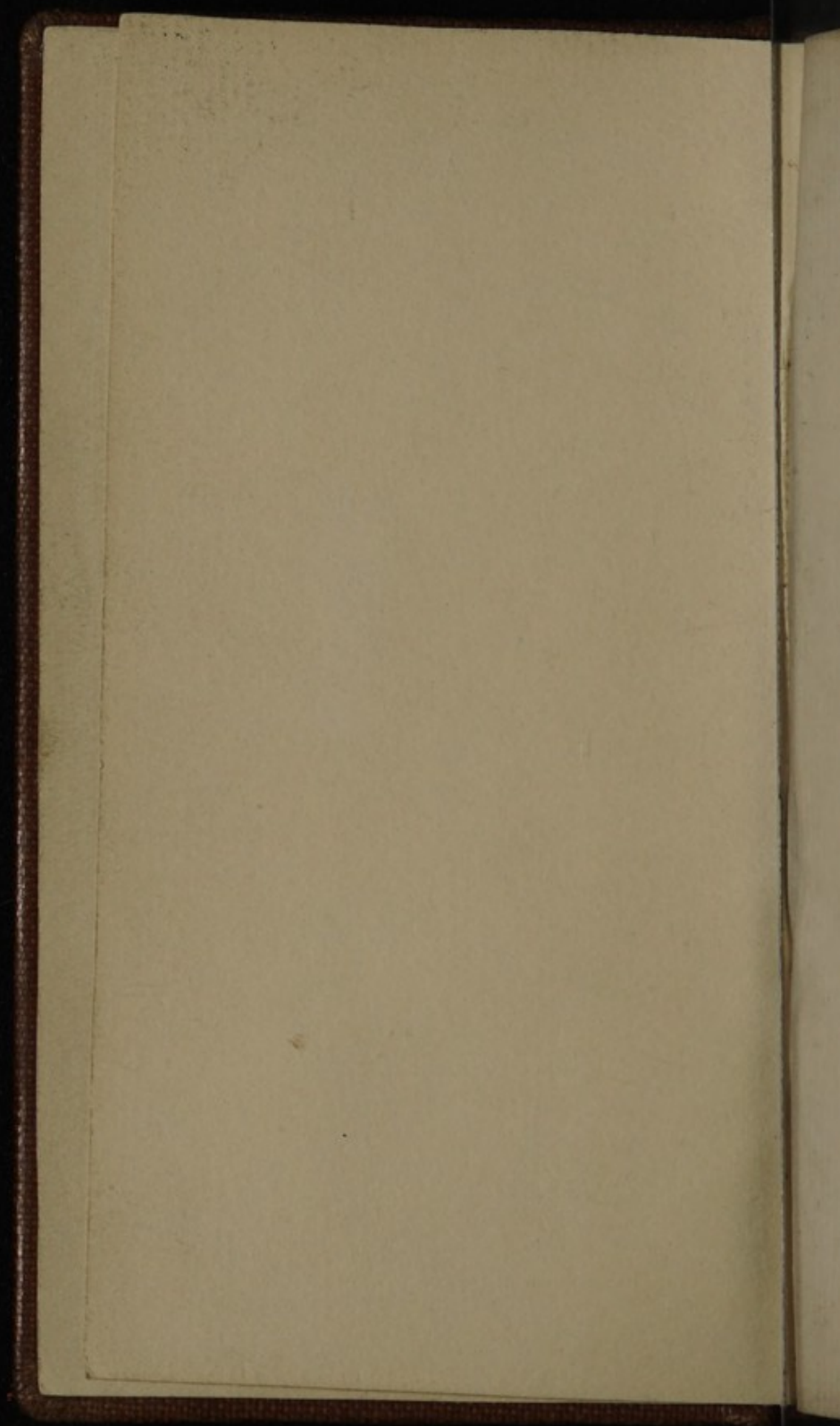


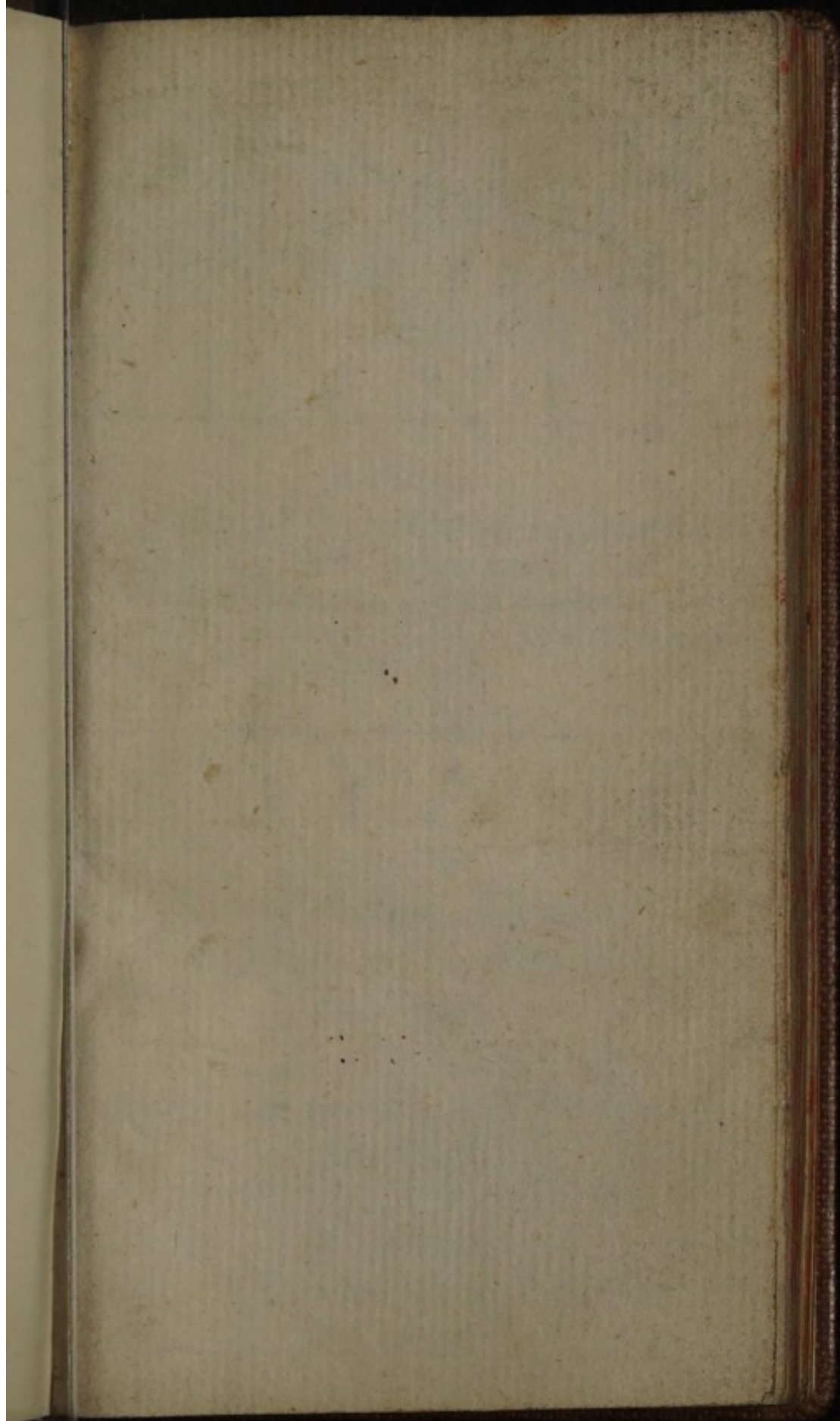


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A
RELATION
OF THE
COASTS of AFRICK
CALLED
GUINEE;
WITH

A Description of the Countreys, Manners
and Customs of the Inhabitants; of the pro-
ductions of the Earth, and the Merchandise and
Commodities it affords; with some Historical
Observations upon the Coasts.

Being Collected in a
VOYAGE

MADE
By the ^{Nicolas} *Sieur Villault*, Escuyer, *Sieur*
de Bellefond, in the years 1666,
and 1667.

*Written in French, and faithfully
Englisbed.*

LONDON,
Printed for John Starkey at the Mitre in
Fleet-Street near Temple-Barr, 1670.

A
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OF THE
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WITH

A Description of the Countries, Manners
and Customs of the Inhabitants; of the pro-
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Commodities it affords; with some Historical
Observations upon the Coast.

Being Collected in a
VOYAGE

MADE

By the Ship *Swallow*, Captain *John Smith*,
in the years 1683,
and 1684.



Printed by John Smith at the Sign of
The Golden Anchor, in the Strand, 1685.



THE
TABLE
OF
CHAPTERS.

A *Relation of their Voyage from
Amsterdam.* page 1

The Description of Cap-Verd. p. 16

*The Coast of Malegeta, with
the Kingdome of Sierra-Leone.*
p. 30

The Description of Sierra-Leone,
a 3 or

The Contents.

- or the Mountain of Lyons.* p. 39
- Cap de Monte, *and its Description.*
p. 57.
- Cap Miserado. p. 69.
- Rio de Junco. p. 77
- Petit Dieppe. p. 80
- Rio-Sextos. p. 81
- The Coast of Graives called Mala-*
guette. p. 91
- The Coast of Elephants Teeth.*
p. 103
- Coste d' Or, *or the Gold Coast,*
with a Relation of our Occurren-
ces there. p. 120
- The Description of the Golden Coast.*
p. 138. Of

The Contents.

*Of the Stature and Proportion of
the People of this Countrey, of
their Wit, Inclination, Industry,
and Habits.* P. 139

*Of their women, their Genious,
Humours, and Habits.* P. 147

*Of their Marriages, and the Edu-
cation of their Children.* P. 152

*Of their Houses, Householdstuff, Drink,
Meat, Palme-wine, and how it
is made.* P. 162

*Of their Markets, their manner of
Buying and Selling, with a de-
scription of their Measures and
Weights.* P. 170

*Their Religion. Of their Sundayes,
Feasts, Devotions, Gods or Feti-
ches, of their Sacrifices, Priests,
and Habits.* P. 175
Of

The Contents.

Of their Superstition, their Swearing upon their Fetiches, their manner of pacifying them, when they think they are angry, and the Burials of the Dead. P. 191

Of their Old Men, their Slaves, their Lame, their Servants, the Diseases they are usually subject to, with their Cures, and the way to prevent them. P. 204

Of their Dances, and Feasts, both private and solemn. P. 216

Of their Exercises, their Workmen, their Trades, their Merchandises, their Fishing, and the Duty they pay to the King. P. 224

Of the Kings of those Countreys, their Courts, Authority, and manner of living with their Courtiers, of their Wives and Children,

The Contents.

Children, of the Succession of
their Kingdoms, their Revenues,
Feasts, Deaths, Burials, and
Election of another King. P. 234

Of their Nobles, the manner of
their making VVar, the grounds
upon which they do usually make
it, their Arms, of their Cessati-
ons and Peace. P. 250

Of their Civil and their Criminal
Justice, and of the Successions of
particular men. P. 261

Of their Beasts, their Birds, and
their Fish. P. 268

Their Fruits, Hearbs, Bread, Mil-
let, Mays, their manner of sow-
ing and making of Salt. P. 273

Of their Gold, where it is found,
and how, with the variety of
works.

The Contents.

works they make of it. p. 278

*Of the Return of our Vessel for
Europe.* p. 286

*The Description of the Isle of Saint
Thomas which lyes under the
Line.* p. 289

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A
V O Y A G E
T O

The Coasts of *Africk* called

GUINEE.

*with a discription of the several
Countries, Fashions, and Manners
of the People, the Fruit and Com-
modities of those parts, with the
Trade and Commerce they afford.*



He Coasts of *Africk*,
commonly called
Guinee, comprehen-
ding a Tract of
ground of seven
hundred Leagues, from *Cap-verd*
in the fourteenth degree of Nor-
A thern

2 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

thern latitude, and nintieth degree of longitude East: to *Cape Gonsalvo* in the first degree of Southern latitude and 29. and a half of Eastern longitude, are at present so little frequented by the French (and all from an opinion they have taken up of the Malignity of the aire) that it cannot (without great fence and reluctancy) be consider'd how long, and how unhappily they have been deserted by them, and left as a prey to all other Nations, without reserving so much as the least share in the most advantageous Commerce they afford.

I must confess (having the heart and passions of a Frenchman) I could not observe without great regret, the cunning, and artifice, wherewith the *English*, the *Hollander*, and the *Dane*, had possess'd us of the perniciousness of the aire, and

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A Voyage to Guinee. 3

& the unwholsomness of the place, and that with so much subtilty, they had almost perswaded us out of the whole Country, and to have given up those few places which are still in our power: a practice of that Moment, and importance to them all, that from their traffique upon these Coasts alone (would they be ingenuous and confess) they must acknowledge they derive their most considerable profit and advantage.

And indeed what Frenchman is there in the world so stupid and impenitrable, that can behold several Bays along these Coasts, (by the inhabitants called *Bayes de France*) and several Towns (as *Petit Diep* and others) declaring at this day the Genealogy of their founders, so intirely abandon'd by his Countrymen, that there is nothing remaining there now but

A 2 their

4 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

their name, and an indeble desire in the natives, that they would Conquer them again; what Frenchman I say can consider this without remorse, or remember it without being affected.

True it is, in the time of the Civil wars wherewith it pleas'd God to afflict the Kingdom of *France* in the Reign of *Henry le Grand*, our expulsion in those parts was compleated, for having no leisure to reinforce such garrisons as we had there from the time of *Lewis the Eleventh*, we were forc'd out of them all and constrain'd to yeild possession to the *Portugais*, who at that time like an inundation overwhelm'd all we had formerly gain'd upon the *Gol-dien Coast*, and for the better security of their Conquests, built a Castle called *St. George de la Mine*, of which I shall give a more ample discrip-

A Voyage to Guinee. 5

discription hereafter.

Yet, as an argument that our interest was considerable there once, and that our magnificence was suitable to our interest: it is worthy observation, that at this very day the *Dutch* make use of a fair Church built formerly by the *French*, still Adorned with our Monuments and Arms, and the principal Battery they have towards the sea, is still by the Natives themselves called *la batterie de France*.

Upon these Coasts we had once the possession of *Akara*, *Cormentin*, *Cape-corse* and *Takorai*, at which last the *Sweeds* rais'd a new Fort since that, and upon the ruines of of ours, but their late wars in *Germany*, (like ours Wars in *France*) having caus'd it to be neglected, and been an occasion of interrupting its supplies, it is demolish'd

6 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

as well as ours, and has nothing left now, but rubbish, to shew that ever it was there.

Besides this, we have suffered the Hollander to inroach upon us in our days, and to possess themselves of our plantation at *Commendo*, a Town some two leagues distance from the *Chasteau de la Mine*, but they were glad to attend the death of two Frenchmen who had lived there along time, built a fair house (of which there is nothing now standing but the walls) and comported themselves with that Candor and integrity to the Natives, that they gain'd the affections of them all, and have left such a perfume and reputation of the French behind them, the *Mores* do glory in being called by that name, and will still beat their drums after the mode of *France*.

Three

A Voyage to Guinee. 7

Three Months in the year, the
aire of this Country is dangerous,
and no more, yet so little then,
that with the least providence and
moderation one may preserve him-
self as well as in *France*, and per-
haps better, because we have se-
veral diseases which are familiar
in *Europe*, that are utterly un-
known in this Country.

But the truth is, this is but
pretence, and the collusion of the
Dutch to put that into our heads,
that seeing our commerce decli-
ning in those parts, they might
not only eradicate all our thoughts
of recovering it again, but all our
regret and concernment for the
loss of it, and they themselves go
quietly away with the commerce
of so many Kingdoms, which is
so prodigiously rich, I shall only
touch upon it *in transitu*, and not
tell what I saw my self, least it

8 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

should seem to be incredible. I

Only this I shall be bold to offer to the consideration of the world, whether 'tis probable the *Hollanders* (who are a people so ardently devoted to their interest and advantage, that there is scarce any body but knows it) would upon occasion of surprising the *Fort at Cormentin* upon the *Golden Coast* which was formerly theirs, have ventured upon the last war with *England*, had not their profits upon those coasts been more then ordinarily considerable.

And indeed so sweet was their Trade there, and of that consequence and importance they would never have endured either *English* or *Dane* amongst them, had not the Natives compelled them.

The instance I shall give in the ill usage we receiv'd from the *Heer Valkenbourg* their General at the
Mine,

A Voyage to Guinée. 9

Mine, at a time too when we were in so strict allyance with them, that we had espous'd their quarrel, and made their Enimies our own, will I doubt not be sufficient to demonstrate, that there is nothing so Barbarous, or inhospitable, they will not act for their profit, and to exclude the world from the notion of a Trade that would alone maintain the Grandeur of their State, were they absolute Masters of these Coasts without any competitors.

That the Genius and Humour of the *Mores* is more susceptible of the *French*, then any other Nation, is manifest by the designs all Forreigners have lay'd to keep us from thence: they know very well should our Commerce be readmitted, theirs would be lost irrecoverably, and we should ingross the vast quantities of Ivory

10 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

and Gold-sand, which comes yearly from thence: Besides the benefit of the Nigroes which are transported for Slaves into *America*; and contribute exceedingly to the profit of those plantations.

Nor ought any difficulty in the Voyage, be able to discourage us, seeing when once arrived at the *Canaries*, the wind serves always very well, no tempests, no storms, and anchorage is every where so good, that an anchor of nine or ten inches, will hold a Vessel of four hundred Tun:

To *Monsieur Dalicx Seigneur Martel* being imployed into these parts by the *West-Indy Company* at *Paris*, and setting out from *Amsterdam* in a new Ship of four hundred Tun, (called the *Europe*) took me along with him in the quality of his Controuler for that Voyage.

On *St. Mathews Eve*, in the year

one

A Voyage to Guinee. 11

one thousand six hundred sixty six,
I departed from *Paris* in order to
my imployment, and arrived at
Brussels the Saturday after, the next
night passing to *Antwerp*, and from
thence to *Rotterdam*, I came safely to
Amsterdam on the 13 of *September*,
where having spent some weekes
with the rest of our Officers in
fraiting our Ship, I departed with
the *Heer Vantesck*, the *Heer Willem-*
bourg (our Captain,) the *Heer Van-*
derberg, and *Monsieur Mathews*
(our Secretary) for the *Texel*.

The next morning we went a-
board, and on the 13 of *Novem-*
ber with a fair wind we set sail,
steering our course south south
west; we gave the Fort of the *Tex-*
el three guns, and then put out the
colours of *Ostend* to prevent being
stopt, there having been an exprefs
prohibition for any *Hollander* to
serve any forreigner in those parts
upon

12 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

upon pain of death, let the pretence be what it would.

Having dismiss our Pilot which conducted us to sea ; by degrees, and the opportunity of a mist we past thorough the Channell, and (escaping the English of whom we had great apprehension) we came up at length to certain Islands about some twenty leagues distance from the river of *Lisbon*.

In this place it seems it is a custome amongst the *Hollanders*, (and punctually observed) to baptize such of their seamen and passengers as have never past the Tropique or Line before, and if the Vessel have never made that Voyage before (as ours had never done) by the same custome the Captain is obliged to give the Seamen some certain bottles of Brandy to be merry, and drink his health with all, or otherwise he forfeits.

The

A Voyage to Guinee. 13

The weather being fair, and we very much beholding to the benignity of the sun, all things were prepared, the Bell rung, and the Seamen immediately upon the deck, and having slackned our sails, they began the ceremony of Baptisme as followes.

Those of the seamen who had made this voyage before, seised upon the other, & tying their hands behind them, they took them one by one, and having fastened a Rope under their armpits, they puld them up to the yard of the main mast, from thence soucing them into the water, and then drawing them out again three or four times, some times they ducked them for the King of *France*, and sometimes for the States general, and at last for the Officers of the Ship, and their wives if they had any, after which they gave them a glass of Sack

14 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Sack, or a dish of Brandy, and all were good friends.

The boys of the Ship were stript to their shirts, and put under a basket, and had seaven or eight buckets of water poured over their heads.

Nor were the officers exempt, for after their presents of drink to the seamen, they were contented to stand still till they threw some little water upon their heads out of a glass or a pot, which concluded the ceremony.

This Christning being over, we set sail again, and by the error of our Pilots, we past by the *Maderas*, where we intended to have put in.

At length we discovered a high foreland, and advanced within 4 leagues of it to discover what it was, after five hours coasting we found by our sounding (the water being

A Voyage to Guinee. 15

being forty fathom) and the red-
neis of the sand, that it was not the
Isle of *Palma* (as we imagined)
but that we were got as far as the
Gulf de *sainte Croix* neer the
Cape *Geer* upon the Coasts of *Mo-
roque*.

Having past by the *Canaries* and
the Cape de *Bajador*, we past the
Tropique of *Cancer* on the 10 of
December, and on the twelfth ha-
ving past the Cape *Blanc*, we came
into eighteen degrees of latitude,
and by the benefit of a south east
wind we run along by the shore
till we came to sixteen degrees, at
which time we began to descry
the Coasts of *Africk*, and to observe
them sandy and low.

The 14 at sun rising we found
our selves at the mouth of the river
of *Senegal*, about fifteen degrees,
where the wind falling, we endu-
red a calm, so as that day nor the
night

16 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

night following, we made no progress at all.

On the 15th we discover'd *Cap-Verd*, which at a distance resembled two Breasts, but in respect it was environed with Rocks, and not approachable without danger, we steer'd to the North-West, and on the 16th, we doubled the *Cap* in our passage to *Rio-Fresco*, a Town upon the Coast of *Africk*, about six leagues from the *Cap*; a place where they usually take in fresh water, and sometimes Trade, but with little security, the Fort, and Island of *Goure* (which belongs to the *Hollander*) being too near.

C A P - V E R D.

SO called from a perpetual verdure which embellishes it, is one of the pleasantest, and most agreeable

A Voyage to Guinee. 17

agreeable places in the world. It is a Promontory which throws it self a long way from East to West into the Sea; the North part of it is Mountanous, and covered always with green Trees, its point towards the East, is about a Mile over: it is a Rock very steep and sharp towards the Sea, which with great gentleness baths and washes the feet of it, after it has been broken, and discomb'd by several smaller, and conceal'd Rocks that incompass it, and seem to be plac'd there by nature, on no other purpose but to oppose themselves (in the behalf of so delicate a place) against the fury of so impetuous an Element. The two points advancing like Mountains, and making as it were a verdant terrass or rampart walk betwixt them, yeilds a most incomparable perspective thorough the trees on the East-

18 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

East-side, and is no less beautifull on the South, though the Countrey lies low, by reason of the Trees, which one would think were planted by a line, if he considers with what exactness and regularity they grow.

But the same wind which (being gentle) had indulg'd our curiosity, and given us a gratefull and compleat prospect of this Cape, removed us almost insensibly, and brought us to *Goure*.

Goure is a little Island about a League in circumference, and three Leagues distant from *Cap-Verd*, 'tis separated from the *Terrasirma* by a little arm of the Sea, about half a League over. At present it belongs to the *Hollander*, who on a Mountain on the West-side has built a Fort, on the East it is low, has a good Port on the South, and good Anchorage.

We

A Voyage to Guinee. 19

We saluted the Fort with five pieces of Canon, and received as many from them; we gave them three more by way of thanks, and that they might not seem to be behind us in civility, they return'd us one more, and set up the Dutch Standard.

A while after the Governour sent out his boat to inquire what we were, and what news; he that commanded it spake very good French, and it fell to my share to entertain him a good while. Our discourse was about *Cap-Verd*, and *Le-Senegal*, which he cry'd up to me as the most pleasant part of the World, and the best for Trade, and told me, that at long run the French would carry it from every body.

For *Cap-Verd*, that they which loved hunting, might abundantly divert themselves there, that
there

20 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

there was plenty of game, as Partridge, Hares, Harts, Roe-Bucks, and several other Animals very good meat, though utterly unknown in *Europe*. That the *Moors* were not to be fear'd, and that there was excellent fishing.

After Dinner he return'd to the Fort, desiring us to go on to *Gambay* where the *English* had a small Fort with eight pieces of Canon planted, and the Government worth 2000 *l. per ann.*

Rio-Fresca, is a Town in *Africk*, near which, we came to Anchor in the *Bay de France*, which is firm and gravelly at the bottome, and is six Fathoms deep at low water.

After Dinner our Secretary was sent on Shore to carry the *Alcair*, or Governour, his Presents, (which were Knives, and Brandy) and to take a view of what Commodities they had there, and to procure fresh meat.

At

A Voyage to Guinee. 21

At his return, he told us the *Alcair* had receiv'd him very civilly in his own house, which is built in the midst of several others, that he made him set down by him upon a very neat Matt, and regal'd him with such Wine and Fruits as the Countrey did afford.

That as to Commodities, the Coast was at present unfurnish'd, but if we would have patience for a fortnight, he would give notice to the Marchants of the Countrey, who would doubtless supply us, especially several *Portugals* which they then had amongst them: and as to fresh Victuals he would furnish us next day.

Whilst our Notary was ashore, there came a *Canoe* aboard us from the *Alcair*, but so mann'd, as surprized me very much: they were exceedingly black, their *Mine* not much better than our Beggars in
France,

22 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

France, and naked as they were born, except a little linnen before.

They demanded what we were; we told them *French*: they ask'd if we were come to stay, or had put in only for Provisions; we reply'd for Provisions, but we would return to continue; to which they answer'd *Bon, Bon*: the *French* are more worth than all the rest of the World.

There came several other *Canoes* to us with great quantity of fish, which they barter'd for knives and strong waters, which they fancy exceedingly.

That night we stood to our arms, apprehending some attempt from *Goure* to surprise us. The next morning, the *Alcair* himself, called *Abdonsech*, came aboard us in our Shallop, accompany'd with his Officers, & the principal of the Town

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A Voyage to Guinee. 23

Town. He was a person of about 35. or 40. years of age, well proportion'd, and understood his interest well enough. He was in a long white Robe made of Cotton, which came no lower than his knees, the sleeves long and wide like a Surplice, only gather'd close at the hands, about his neck great quantity of locks of Red Wool, with a *Callecon* of the same; he had a Cap upon his head not much unlike the *Capuches* worn in *Hungaria*. The Officers had all of them old Mantles of stript Cotton about them, partly white, and part blew, not unlike our Gipsies.

We made them sit and Dine with us, after which they desir'd the Officers of the Vessel that they would return thither and continue, which we promising, they enter'd into a Contract of allyance, which was sign'd and seal'd on both sides.

We

24 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

We ask'd them where their King was; they reply'd three days journey up into the Countrey: That he was call'd *Damel Biram*, and his kingdom *Caillor*, that he loved the *French* best, as being more frank, and liberal, and less addicted to their interest and profit.

It's a wonder to see these people, they can neither write nor read, and yet all of them spoke *Portugais*; but the *Alcair*, *French*, *English*, and *Dutch*, as perfectly as those that were born there: about Noon he took his leave of us, and we fill'd him a great Gourd with strong water, which he had brought full of Palm Wine, which is the best in their Countrey; I went on shore with him, and interrogating him about these following things for several hours, he inform'd me, that

A Voyage to Guinee. 25

Rio-Eresca is a Town of about 200 houses, that it hath a convenient Harbour on the West-side of it, and capable of a 'shallop: That the houses are but small, and according to my computation, like our thatched houses in *Normandy*, built only with mud and sticks layed a cross. That there were not above 300 men in the Town, besides women and children.

The East-side is covered with a Wood, thorow which I past four or five hundred paces, and discovered large fields beyond it, which my eye could not compass. This Wood consists of Palm-trees, and other very lofty Trees, which in *Europe* are unknown.

The aire (though the place be fourteen degrees on this side the Line) is as good and as warm, as any on these coasts; for which

B

reason

26 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

reason both women and men, go naked, only a little linnen before, to cover their *pudibunda*, which the men doe not scruple to leave off when they go to Sea.

Their Religion is so various, and intermixt, that besides the *Portugal Catholicks*, which are there in great numbers, they have other *circumcized Catholicks*, that come near to the *Jews*, as also *Mahumetans* and *Idelaters*. These latter have little baggs of leather which they wear constantly about their necks, and call them *Fetiches*, which is as much as to say, *their Gods*, (as I shall demonstrate more at large in my Chapter of the Superstition of those which inhabit the *Golden Coast*) in which likewise they have so great confidence, they believe that unless it be the Whites, there is no body can doe them any harm.

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A Voyage to Guinee. 27

They eat very little flesh, though they have Oxen, Cows, Sheep, Goats, Kids, Hens, Pidgeons, a kind of Pheasants, and small Birds in abundance; Their chief diet is Fish, as the *Guilthead*, the *Shad-fish*, the *Pilcher*, which they take day and night in great numbers, besides many other unknown among us. Their fishing is in little *Canoes*, cut out of the Trunk of a Tree, and made hollow, with a stick, (instead of a Mast) set up in the middle when the wind is down, but otherwise when it is high, they stand right up, and row with a kind of oars, some four or five foot long, and as broad at the end as a good large plate.

The men of this place, are very personable and well, not many of them *Canons*, and from hence it is they have the best slaves in *Africk*. The women and daugh-

28 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

ters are for the most part very common, courting and solliciting of Strangers by that time they are fourteen years old, and that in the midst of the streets, so great a kindness and inclination they have for them.

The men have as many wives as they can keep, will prostitute them for a small matter, and sometimes offer them for nothing. They have their haire tyed up upon their heads, (which are always uncovered) to which they fasten certain little pieces of wood, and think them great preservatives against the heat of the Sun. All of them both men and women speak a kind of corrupt *Portugais*.

The commodities this Country affords, are Skins, Gums, Feathers, Ivory, Indigo, Civet, and great quantity of a kind of Cotten cloth, stript with white and with blew, which

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A Voyage to Guinee. 29

which is immediately put off again at the *Golden Coast*.

Though they are naturally great lyers, and not to be believed, yet it is certain the *Alcair* gave advertisement to the Inhabitants up the country as he promised us, but we thought it not fit to trust him, according to the advice of another Vessel of *Amsterdam*, which made advantage thereby.

We bought that day some Hens, Pullets, and Kids, and delayed our time so long on shore, our camerades were forced to give us a signal, by discharging a great Gun, that we should come back, as apprehending some mischief might befall us from the *Hollander*.

That night we set sayle for the *Sierra-Leone*, or *Mountain of Lyons*, neither thinking it convenient to make up the other Rivers, or to pass directly to *Gambay*. And on

30 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

fix and twentieth of *December* we came to an anchor within three leagues.

*The Coasts of MALEGETA,
with the Kingdom of
Sierra-Leone.*

THe next day by the benefit of the Tyde, we came to an anchor in the River of *Sierra-Leone*; about noon the *Mores* came aboard us to conduct us into the *Bay de France*, which is the fourth from *Cap-Ledo* at the mouth of the River.

At six fathom deep, low water, we came to an anchor within musquet shot of the fountain, where we took in fresh water, and having landed, we went that night to supper upon the banks of it, where we killed a Goat, which came thither to drink, and found the
water

A Voyage to Guinee. 31

water more pleasant and delicious (in respect of our thirst) then the best of our Wines.

We put out the colours of *Ostend*, and not of *France*, because there was an *Englishman* living in one of those Isles a long time, where he had a faize house and four pieces of Canon, and was besides well beloved, and protected by the Kings of that country.

The next day we sent two of our Officers up the River, about ten leagues, to wait upon the King of *Boure*, with our usual presents, and to desire permission to trade, and to furnish our selves with fresh water, and wood; and in the mean time our people fell to work, to cut down wood, and carry water, the Notary, my self, and one of my servants, going along with them as a guard. During our absence there came aboard

32 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

our Ship five or six *Canoes*, in one of which there was one *John Thomas* (Captain of one of the Isles in that River) who brought some quantity of Ivory along with him. The Captain (who was the only Officer aboard) received him very civilly, saluted him at his entrance with a volley of great Shot, and regaled him as much as was possible, but he bought none of his Ivory being too dear, which gave so much dissatisfaction to *Monsieur Thomas*, he went away in a huff about five a clock, and landed with fifteen or sixteen *Mores* in his company, near the bank of the Fountain I have spake of before. The Clerk and my self were returning in our great *shallop* laden with balast, and advanc'd as much as the tyde (which was then coming in) would give us leave, in so much that our *shallop* was a float:

A Voyage to Guinee. 33

float: Which being observed by the Captain and his *Mores*, they put themselves into their *Canoes* again, and made with all speed to our men, who were cutting down wood upon the banks of the Bay. At the same time they gave us a signal from the Ship by furling our colours, which made us double our speed, in apprehension there might have been some mutiny or sedition aboard; but when we arrived we found it was only to give notice of the design of the *Mores*, who were seen making to our men with their weapons in their hands, but the man I left behind me, having his musquet with him, stopt their proceedings, and the rest defended themselves so well with their *Axes*, that there was none wounded or kill'd of the whole company, only one ancient man received a scratch in one of

34 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

his armes. We sayled immediately towards them, but as soon as we came within musquet shot, and they perceived our Guns in our hands, they run strait into the woods, where they lay close all day long, but at night we could hear them making great noise about the fountain aforesaid.

The next day being the 29 December, the Clerk, the Pilots Mate, several Servants, and about 20 of our Seamen, went a shore in our shallop for fresh water and wood. At their landing the *Mores* abandoned the fountain, and betook themselves to the Woods, where they made a great noise likewise, but without any attempt, for our men having run towards them, and fired five or six musquets at adventure into the woods, they took their heeles, and from that time we heard no more of *Mon-*
sieur

A Voyage to Guinee. 35

sieur Thomas, nor any of his crew.

After dinner our Embassadors returned from the King of *Boure's* Court, having stayed there with his most August Majesty but one night: but they brought most of the *Canoes* thereabout along with them, laden with Ivory, which was bought off indifferent cheap.

The next day the King of *Boure's* Brother came aboard us, and brought with him a *Portugais* (which we had seen before, and is imployed in the affaires of that Prince) we knew it was some person of quality as soon as we discerned his *Canoe*, which we distinguished by the sound of his Trumpets, and immediattely sent out our boat to receive him, into which he entred with his Trumpet and Drum, and at his coming aboard our Ship, was saluted vwith a volley from the great Guns.

The

36 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

The Brother of the King of *Sierra-Leone* is a person of about fifty or threescore years of age, and begins novv to grovv gray: his stature is but indifferent, but grave, and intelligent enough in his affairs. His habit vvas not much unlike that of the *Alcayr* of *Rio-Fresca*, unless it be that the *Alcayr's* habit vvas of vvhite cloth, and this of cloth strip'd vwith black and blevv, he had a grey hat upon his head, a stick like a musquet rest in his hand, his Attendants had all of them Robes of Cotton cloth, only the *Portugal* vvas dress'd *a la Portugaise*.

Whilst we vvere treating him, vve gave him an accompt of the story of *John Thomas*, to vvhich he answered that he vvas a mutineer and a rebel, and that in case we should catch him, vve should not only have his pardon, but thanks.

After

A Voyage to Guinee. 37

After he had dined, he pulled out about twenty little stones, out of a little purse, which he threw up on the Table, demanding so many *Barres* (as they call them) in discharge of their Kings duties, as well for the business they had negotiated with him, as for their fresh water and wood. Though these people can neither read nor write, yet they make use of this way of gathering their Rights, and the frequency of their Commerce with the *Portugals*, has brought them to talk altogether by *Barres*, which is the word they doe most ordinarily use.

According to their demande, the twenty *Barres* were payed him, that is to say, in Iron twelve *Barres*, a little Barrell of Strong-waters at four *Barres*, a Kettle at two *Barres*, a Hat at two *Barres*, and so on: He was himself upon his

38 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

his own score presented with two Bottles of Brandy, and his Retinue with Knives: at the close of the evening he returned, well stuf, and well fatisfyed, as the greatest part of his Attendants were also; at his departure he had several Guns given him, and was dismiss with all possible civility. He is in great respect amongst the people, his Trumpet and Drum are always carryed along with him, even when he goes about his most natural affaires. During these three dayes, we had several *Portugals* came aboard us with their Commodities, of whom I endeavoured what I could to inform myself of the manners of that Country.

The

*The Description of Sierra-Leone, or
the Mountain of the Lyons.*

THE Countrey of *Sierra-Leone*,
is called *Boulombel* by the
Mores, which in their language is
as much as the large Countrey. In
respect of the extraordinary height
of the Mountaines towards the
South, which are much higher
then either the *Pyrenean* or *Alpes*;
and the multitude of Lyons which
are constantly to be seen there, it
was called *Sierra-Leone* by the
Portugals, which in our language
amounts to no more then the
Mountain of Lyons: Their Coun-
treys begins a great way up in the
land Eastward, and ends North-
west with the *Cap-Ledo*, which
throws it self into the Sea: from
the point of that *Cape*, as one passes
up the River, there are several
Bayes,

40 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Bayes, the fourth of which is the *Bay de France*, either because the *French* were formerly possessed of this Coast, or that they burn'd a Town there heretofore, and this is the only Bay in that River where they can take in fresh water.

I had one day the curiosity to trace one of the three Fountaines which are there, and having followed it a league to the foot of the Mountaines, observing the tracks and print of the wild beasts, which are very strange, and dreadful, I returned as I went, and have been since informed by one of the *Portugals*, that it rises in the midst of the Woods, which are above 15 leagues over, and that if I had pursued my design, and traced it to its spring, I must never have expected to come back, as well for the vast number of Lyons, as for the Tygres, Elephants, and Croco-

A Voyage to Guinee. 4^r

Crocodiles which are there, and would probably have devoured me.

These Mountaines are covered vvith Trees very full of Gumme, alvvays green, and for the most part not unlike our Laurel.

The Northen parts of this *Sierra-Leone* lie very low, and are in the possession of the King of *Boulom*, as the Southern parts are of the King of *Boure*.

The Kingdom of *Boulom* is not overwell known, either to the *French* or *Hollander*, their affections being principally inclin'd to the *English* and *Portugals*, of which last, there are several that inhabit there.

The River which bears the name of *Sierra-Leone* likewise, runs a great way Eastward up into the Countrey, is about 3 leagues over at the mouth; and one about fourteen

42 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

teen or fifteen leagues higher. The Harbour is not above two fathoms deep, in so much that in entring into it, we were fain to come as near the Mountaines as we could, where we found ten, twelve, and sixteen fathoms water. It has several little Islands in its channel, the most of them inhabited, and covered with green Trees, especially Palme-trees, of which they make great quantities of Wine? It is very full of Fish, and breeds Crocodils near the head of its Fountaine.

The borders of these Islands are set with certain Trees, whose branches, doe never extend themselves further out one then another, but the shutes or fiences growing downwards, as soon as they touch the water or the earth, they take new root, and by that means make a Hedge sometimes of 10 or 12 yards broad. The

A Voyage to Guinee. 43

The Inhabitants of this Countrey are very well made, I observ'd very few of them Camous'd, the men much more civil then at *Cap-Verd*, they are always clothed, and for the most part more modest.

In the Town of *Boure* there cannot be above 300 houses, according to the estimation of some of our men who were there, and told me among other things, that the Pallace of their King is built likewise in the middle of the Town, and would not make a good residence for a justice of peace.

Their Women are generally common, every man has as many of them as he pleaseth, and prostitutes them to Strangers, as he thinks good, except only the first, which are kept with great jealousy, and circumspection all along these Coasts, so as properly

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44 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

the other are nothing but Con-
cubines.

According to the computation
of every body I spake with, there
may be in *Boure* about four or five
hundred men, besides women and
children: Their King is a Roman
Catholick, his name *Philippe*,
and has a *Capuchin* and a *Jesuit* in
his Court.

In an Island called *Saint Andrew*,
I entered into one of their houses,
and found it built of sticks, and
dirt, on one side a little window
covered with leaves, a hole for
the dore, and a small fire in the
middle; they lye upon Matts,
made of great rushes, which they
place in a corner, and have their
Armes by their sides, which for
the most parts are fwords, daggers,
darts, bows and arrows, the head
of which they impositon with the
fruit of a certain tree, whose poi-
son

A Voyage to Guinee. 45

son is so inconceivably subtil and quick, it runs immediately into the blood, and affects it so suddenly, it is no easy matter either to prevent or to cure it: Which fruit is long like a raddish, and green. Some of them have their Guns, which they all of them are fond of, and doe use with great dexterity.

Their Religion also is various, the great Commerce the *Portugals* have in this place, and the great numbers that inhabit there already have converted many of them, the rest being *Mahumetans*, and *Idolators*. They pay a reverence extraordinary to certain extravagant figures, which they call *Fetiches*, worship them as Gods, pray to them punctually Morning and Night, and when at any time they have any thing better then ordinary, either Meat, or Fish, or
their

46 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

their Palm-Wine, they throw it all down upon the ground in honour to their Gods.

As I went a shore one day in the *Canoe* of a certain *More*, I heard him muttering to himself, and having distinguish'd these words *Abraham*, *Isaac*, and *Jacob*, I ask'd him what he was doing, he told me he was giving thanks to his *Fetich*, for having preserved him at Sea, and that the rest of the *Mores*, as they had occasion, did always the same: They all of them carry their *Fetiches* in little baggs, either upon their hearts, or their shoulders, tending them meat Night and Morning constantly, they trim them up with *Rasade*, or little grains of glass of all colours, which they take to be the greatest Ornament in the world.

This Countrey produces great quan-

A Voyage to Guinee. 47

quantity of *Rice*, of *Millet*, and *Mays*, which is a kind of *Turkish Corne*, they make their bread off, and is not very ill: Some of them having wash'd their *Rice* in *Sea water*, will eat it raw, and without any ill effect.

Their common diet is *Fish*, and great store of fruits, as *Berrys*, *Figgs*, *Pears*, *Prunes*, *Oranges*, *Citrons*, and a kind of *Chestnut*, not altogether so good as in *Europe*, but it has the virtue to quench the thirst though one be never so dry.

These *Mountaines* produce great quantities of *Goats*, *Hoggs*, *Lyons*, *Tygres*, *Elephants*, wild *Bores*, *Harts*, and *Roebucks*, which last are so numerous, they bring them on *Ship board*, and truck them for little or nothing: But the *Serpents* (if we may believe either the *Mores* or the *Portugals*) doe increase so unmeasurably, that some

48 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

some of them will swallow a Man at a gulpe. The *Mores* are perpetually at wars with them, and doe use a certain herbe (which is admirably good against poison) against the bites of all the Beasts they encounter.

The Apes run up and down every where in great Troops, destroying their plants where ever they come, upon which score the *Mores* are their implacable enemies (as well as the Elephants) hunting and pursuing them perpetually, and sometimes eating them when they have done. I have tasted of their flesh, which is not bad, and in my judgment comes very near our Beef.

All of them speak *Portugais*, and are very apprehensive of being drunk, for which reason (especially amongst us) they drank but little strong water.

The

A Voyage to Guinee. 49

The Marchandise this Countrey affords is Rice, excellent Ivory, Civet, and some Amber-Greece. Of all the Coasts, this is one of the best for matter of trade, feldome yeilding less profit then *Cent pour Cent*: But the *Portugals* gaine is much greater, they buying their Ivory up higher in the Countrey, and afterwards selling it again at the Sea side to other Merchants; Four or five men might live in one of the little Isles in this River, and be very well susteined by the labour of two or three Slaves.

The *English* have a Ware-house in one of these Islands, and the Factor thereof writ to us several times to desire he might come to us and trade, we told him he might doe it with safety, and on the last of *December*, upon our parole, when we had finish'd our

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50 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

bargaines for Ivory with the *Portugals*, and Natives, the said *Englishman* called *Abraham*, came aboard us in his shallop (rowed by three Slaves) accompany'd by a certain *Hollander*, and two others which belonged to him; he was well received, but after Supper, contrary to the advice of all the rest, the Captain made him a prisoner, and the three *Mores* which were with him, to their no small astonishment, and on the first of *January* 1667. the great shallop was mann'd out with 30 men, the Captain, the Chyrurgion, and myself, with one piece of ordinance, to besiege and plunder his house.

It is built of Brick, and free Stone, defended by four pieces of Canon, carrying a four pound bullet, and incompas'd with a fair Wood of Palm trees, which supplied him with Wine. On one

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A Voyage to Guinee. 51

side there are fifteen or twenty Cabines for the Natives, and on the other, a spring of very good water. This Island is the best, and most beautifull upon the River: As we were about to land, we discovered some two hundred *Mores*, got together about the house, with their firelocks, and a greater number up the Woods at farther distance: Which obliged us to make a show of passing on higher, as being the weaker, and by consequence in more need of the advantage of the wind. They imagined we had been going to *Boure*, and immediately dispatch'd a *Canoe* to give *Boulom* the alarme, and to advise him to come to them; we persued this *Canoe* with all possible diligence, but could not perswade them to come in till we fired three or four times into their boat; They were two young

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Slaves

52 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Slaves, belonging to a *Portugal*, that was with the *Englishman*, but we could not make them confess any thing, by all the interrogations we could use: Those of the *English* party observing what was past, fired at us with their Canon, and three of their bullets fell within ten paces of our boat. We put our selves out of the reach of their Guns for the present, and came to an anchor, attending the coming in of the tide to accommodate our return: The weather being calme, about half an hour after, there appear'd two *Mores* belonging to one of the neighbouring Islands, in a *Canoe*, which made directly up to us, and came within pistol shot, but would by no means be perswaded on board; whereupon we shot off two or three Guns (not with intention of doing them harm) but to instruct them of the truth:

A Voyage to Guinee. 53

truth : They no sooner heard the noise of our Guns, but they run away immediately, plying their oares as fast as they could, and stooping (upon sight of our fire) so low, they seem'd to us no higher then Cats : In the meantime the Canon of the *English* were not idle, playing still upon us, though they saw we were out of their reach, which they did not so much to doe any execution, as to let the Natives see they had undertaken their defence, and desired their friendship : However the tyde coming in, we pass'd by several little Islands, and made our retreat.

We found several *Mores*, and *Portugals* aboard our Vessel, and amongst the rest, the King of *Boulones* Son called *Bombo*, who was a person of about thirty or forty years old, well proportioned,

54 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

and (bating his complexion) a very handsome man, his aire was courteous, and majestick, he was an intimate friend of *Abrahams*, but knew nothing till supper of his imprisonment: He no sooner understood it, but he interceded for his ransom, and went immediately with the *Portugal* (that manages the affaires of the King of *Boure*) to procure it: On *Munday* at noon they came aboard again with a hundred Elephants teeth, weighing 900 pound weight, and two live Civet-Cats, upon the delivery of which he was dismiss, and went home after dinner, we giving him a little barrel of Strong-waters, a rowle of Tobacco, a Cheese, and a *Salvo* of three Guns, when he went off.

Some few *Portugals* stay'd behind till they made up their Markets, and having dispatch'd them the

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A Voyage to Guinee. 55

the fifth, they returned out of hand.

That day we intended to have been gone, but happening upon a calme, and to have the tyde against us too, we were forc'd to attend a little longer then we designed. About noon there came a *Canoe* aboard us, with two *Mores*, which pretended to belong to *Boulom*, who brought us fruit, but having no Ivory, we lookt upon them but as spies, and sent them back again about five.

That night we fet sayle, and having past *Cap-Ledo*, we steer'd a South South-East course, to avoid the banks of *Saint Anne*, and the next morning discry'd a little Vessel of *Holland*, coasting upon the shore, as we did, to make the *Cap de Monte*, which is about sixty leagues distant from the *Sier-ra-Leone*.

56 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

On *Friday* the 7th of *January*, we past by the mouth of the River of *Madre-Bomba*, where the *English* have a house also, and not inferior to that at *Sierra-Leone*.

In the afternoon we came within sight of the *Rio de Gallines*, so called by the *Portugals*, from the multitude of Hens there, and the cheapness of them, the people giving one, two, and sometimes three, for a knife of a penny. The *Hollanders* had a house there formerly: The Natives gave us a signe to approach and put in, but the Neighbourhood of the *English* would not suffer us to hear on that eare, but we continued our course to the East till *Saturday* morning, at which time by the assistance of a clear day, we discover'd the *Cap de Monte*, at about ten leagues distance.

CAP

C A P D E M O N T E,

and its Description.

THe wind being but little, we came not to an anchor till night, and then about half a league from the shore, at twelve fathom low water, and upon a sand.

The *Cap de Monte* is so called from a point of ground which gives it that figure, and rising just by the Sea, formes its self into a round Mountain, all the rest of that coast lying very low.

We could not discry either house or cabane all along, yet on the 19th we went on shore, and found four or five houses at some distance, where the Blacks made their Salt.

They appeared very joyfull at our arrival; they told us their King lived three days journey up

58 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

into the Countrey, that they would give notice to their Neighbours of our coming that night, and that if we thought good to return the next morning, we might finde such store of Ivory as could be suddenly got. That if we intended to keep our promise when we came on board, we should give them two great Guns as a signal, and they would make fires to confirm us on their side, which was agreed and performed accordingly.

The tenth, and the eleventh days, were spent entirely in bartering, I being on board; the 12th, I went on shore, though with some difficulty, the Sea breaking off so abruptly, our shallop was left some 20 paces upon ground, and the Seamen forc'd to go out of the boat, and land the Officers upon their backs; where we found the *Mores* had made a large Arbor, covered

A Voyage to Guinee. 59

covered over with leaves, and branches of trees; to keep our commodities dry, and shelter us from the violence of the Sun.

Whilst we were Negotiating our affaires, we heard a great noise on a sudden, and saw the *Mores* in a great hurry, running Pell-mell from their houses, and merchandise both: we apprehended we might be surprized, and took up our armes immediately, but being got out into the aire, we understood it was only their King was coming to us; whereupon some of our men went to meet him, and saluted him with a volley of five or six of our firelocks.

Before him marched his Drum, and his Trumpet, eight or ten of his kindred and friends, and the rest were his Officers: his Wives, and his Daughters, marched on his side, behind him his Slaves followed,

A Voyage to Guinee.

followed, and a certain number of Women carrying his dinner in bowles of wood, and of tynne, which they held up as high as they could possibly: By him he had four Slaves marching, two of them covering him with two large Bucklers, and the other carrying his bow and arrows, and javelin: As he approached, the *Mores* divided themselves, the Men on one side, the Women on the other, singing, and dancing, and leaping up and down, and testifying their joy in a thousand different postures. The King took a dart, and pretended to throw it at them, upon which they threw themselves immediately upon the ground, and at the same time they which came along with his Majesty took their turn, both to dance, and to sing. Presently the King took an arrow, which he shot up into the
aire,

A Voyage to Guinee. 61

aire, and presently all run to the place where it fell, and happy was he that could take it up first, and bring it to him; after this he made a show of shooting directly amongst them, and they throwing themselves down again, with great acclamation, continued this pastime for a quarter of an hour: In this triumph and grandour, he was conducted to us; we received him as honorably as we could, saluting him with volleys of small shot.

He was a grave and venerable old man of about threescore years of age, or upwards, they called him *Falam Boure*, he was very sensible and majestick: his habit was the same with the rest of the Gentlemen, saving that his was quite blew, and the Robes of the Gentlemen, Officers, and Nobility of that Countrey, are always strip'd (like the Captains of

Rio-

62 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Rio-Fresca) with white and blew :
We payed him what respect we
could, and after we had made
him such presents as were usual,
he retired into another Arbor the
Mores had made for him, and left
us very graciously to our Negotia-
tions.

I waited upon him to his Ar-
bor, where he entertained me in
Portugais, and told me, that it was
four years since he had seen any
Whites, and with tears (as it
were) of joy assured me, that the
French should be always welcome
to him; that indeed they were a
little quick and capricious, but
otherwise honest men: that he
and his Countrey (which he
thought was not contemptible)
would be eternally at their ser-
vice.

And in truth were all the rest
of *Africk* like this part of it, it
was

A Voyage to Guinee. 63

was indubitably to be preferred to any part of *Europe*. No sooner is your foot upon the ground, but you are presented with a faire plaine, planted on this side and that, with curious groves perpetually green, and in their leaves not unlike to our Laurel. The prospect is bounded to the South with the Mountain of the *Cape*; and on the North by a large grove, which gives a shade to a little Island in a little River, which casts it self hard by into the Sea, though it be navigable for a *Canoe* only, or perhaps with some difficulty for a shallop: Eastward there is no stop nor termination of the eye, it may delight and loose it self, in vast meadows and playnes, beautify'd and perfum'd with excellent verdures, and water'd with several pritty Rivers, which open and expan'd themselves to the

Mores,

64 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Mores, and seem to invite them to a communication with those that live higher up in the Countrey.

In this place their *Rice*, their *Millet*, and their *Mais* (of which their bread is made) is more plentiful, and grows in greater quantity, then in any other part of *Guinee* whatsoever.

They have Citrons, Oranges, Amants, Berrys, Melons, Gourds, and a sort of plums not much unlike our *Brugnons*, but not so well tasted.

They have great variety of fowle, as Hens, and Pidgeons, and Ducks, and Mallard, and Teal, which must be very plentiful, by the price they are sold for.

Goats and Hoggs are very common, and Apes too, but ugly ones. They have great store of Fish, both Sea-fish, and in their Rivers, which I have said they
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A Voyage to Guinee. 65

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value much above flesh, they have Tortoises likewise are excellent meat, but their shells not worth a farthing.

They are very neat in their feeding, they roast their meat upon wooden spits, turning them with great care, and observing very curiously least one side be more roasted then the other.

Whilst he was at dinner in his own apartment, I took the confidence to begin a health to one of his Sons Wives, in their Palme-Wine; and she answered me in French, *Monsieur je vous remercie*, and told me afterwards in *Portugais*, that her Husbands Father had lived always amongst the *French*, when they where in those parts, and that she could distinguish easily by our aire, that myself and Lacquey were the only *Frenchmen* in our whole company.

The

66 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

The Inhabitants are generally handsome, good natured, tractible, and speak a kind of corrupt *Portugais*. They go all naked both women and men, only a little cloth before them, but the women wear theirs from the stomach, to their mid-leg: they are more chaste than the rest, and their Husbands commonly more jealous.

For their Religion, doe what I could, I could not inform myself, only one of them told me, the Whites pray'd to God, and the Blacks to the Divil: Yet I could perceive many of them were Circumcised, and all of them had their *Fetiches*.

At our landing, there was not above five or six houses to be seen, and those belonging to such as made Salt there, and carryed it afterwards into the Countrey: But within two dayes time, the
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A Voyage to Guinee. 67

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blaine (which was about a league
in circumference) was cover'd
over with houses, which the
Mores from all parts had built, in
order to their traffick with us.

In the Kings houses, or the
houses of their Nobility, they
have a distinct apartment where
their beds are made, either upon
plancks, or mat; about a yard
from the ground, about which
they hang a cloth (in stead of cur-
taines and vallence) and so sleep
all night upon them. For their
repose in the day time, they have
a sort of delicate neat mats, ex-
quisitely made, of which the *Hol-
lander* buys great store for their
Chambers) where laying them-
selves down with their heads in
their Wives lapps, they spend
much of their time in combing and
ordring their Husbands haire.

For four dayes together we had
a very

68 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

a very good Trade. The commodities we bought were Mats, Rice and Ivory, which in those parts is plentiful and excellently good.

And in this place certainly (in any where) a man might live happily, all things contributing to make his life pleasant; the beauty and bounty of the Countrey, the humour and disposition of the people, the abundance of all necessaries, the considerableness of the gain, and the aptness and convenience for building in all places wherever you come.

On the thirteenth we went ashore again, but seeing they had no Ivory left, (though the King promis'd in three dayes time we should have ten times as much as we had bought already, we set sayle that night for *Cap-Miserado*.

CAP-MISERADO.

THe next day being the 14th of *January*, steering our course East-South-East and by South, we discovered the *Cap-Miserado*, but the weather being dusky, and a thick fog interrupting our prospect, we were glad to cast anchor at three leagues distance from the shore (imagining notwithstanding we had been nearer then we were) and afterwards we shot off two Guns to give the *Mores* notice of our arrival.

The fifteenth we discovered our mistake, yet by reason of a calme, we were forc'd to continue at anchor till noone, at which time we perceived a *Canoe* making towards us with two *Mores* in it, which coming up, demanded who we

70 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

we were, and of what Countrey we told them of *Holland*; and they desired us to come nearer land but would by no means be persuaded on board us, till they saw us take the advantage of the wind weigh anchor, and sayle toward the shore.

They entered then, and told us it was a full year since they had seen any Whites: that the next day they would bring good store of Ivory to the Sea-side for us, and that they might performe what they had promised, after we had made them some small presents. They took their leaves. We came up within half a league of the land, to the mouth of a little river they call *Duro*, at the foot of the *Cape*, where we found six fathoms deep at low water.

This *Cape* is called *Miserado* by the *Portugais*, either because

A Voyage to Guinee. 71

are compass'd by rocks that lye
under water, and would inevitably
destroy any Vessel, which should
come nearer then half a league, or
because the *French* which were
formerly massacred there, cryed
out *Misericorde*, *Misericorde*:
Besides the Natives of this place
being very cruel, they have deno-
minated the river, and called it
Duro, as being hard and fatal to
the Whites. Upon which score
we fortified our shallop with a
great Gun, to fright them and
keep them in order.

They set up a little house against
we came in order to our negotia-
tions, but not another to be seen
within less then half a league, and
those too in the woods.

The River *Duro* casts it self into
the Sea on that side towards the
Cape, but is so small and incon-
siderable, it carrys nothing but
Canoes.

At

72 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

At our coming on shore, we found the Captain (who governs those parts) with several of his Officers sitting under a tree, we presented them with two Bottles of Brandy, which they drank freely, and then conducted us to the house they had prepared, and stay'd with us till night came on, and we returned to our Ship.

The Captain was a very lusty man, of a severe aspect, in a Robe like that of the *Alcair de Rio-Fresco* saving that his was red, with a bonnet of the same colour, he was attended by 50 or 60 *Negroes*, with great darts, bows, arrows, and swords, and with some few women which they sent back again to the Woods, not above fifty paces from our lodge, from whence we never durst trust our selves above ten.

They ask'd us whether we came as enemies or friends, observing it seems

A Voyage to Guinee. 73

seems the Canon in our shallop ;
We told them that we could not
but take notice, that they came
with their armes, contrary to the
custom of all other places we had
traded in, and that what we did,
was but to secure our selves, and
our Merchandises, which we
should bring on shore by degrees,
and according as we sold what we
had brought.

Some of the Captaines Women,
lugging their children along with
them, came to see us at our lodge,
and vve vvere forc'd to present
them, though the Captain was so
refractory, what Ivory soever he
expos'd to truck, or to sale, he
ask'd with that unreasonable con-
fidence, there was no reason to
give it : They all of them spake
Portugais, and were all of them
clothed.

Whilst we vvere at dinner, the

D

Captain

74 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Captain demanded some one of us to stay with him, and I (very couragiously) proffer'd to be the man, vvhich he took so kindly, he took me by the hand, and put it into the hand of one of his daughters, with this complement, that he gave her me for my Wife, after which we grew very intimate and great; He took me and shevv'd me to the rest of the *Mores*, who called me their kinsman and friend, promised me Slaves, carryed me along with them, and setting me in the midst of them, they made me drink of their *Palme-Wine*.

One of the Officers that din'd with us, I observ'd to throw Wine upon the ground, before he drank; I ask'd him the reason, and he told me, that if his dead Father should be dry, he would come thither to drink.

We had a fight too of some of
their

A Voyage to Guinee. 75

their Priests, but their habits being the same, vvith vvhat vve saw afterwards upon the *Golden Coast*, I shall pass them by in this place, with this animadversion only, that they carry themselves towards them with great deference and respect, believing every word they spake an Oracle. The Captain shew'd me one of them, and told me, if I had lost any thing, he could tell me where it was, and cry'd him up as he had been a Prophet: But above all things, their greatest superstition is for their *Fetiches*.

Their Traffick is principally Ivory, (which indeed is excellent) and Rice in great abundance.

The *English* have a Ware-house beyond the *Cape*, and are in great avour with the *Mores*, who used us ill in no respect, but as they thought us enemies to them.

When we returned to our
D 2 Vessel

76 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Vessel, we promised to be with them again the next morning, but observing they had brought us good quantity of Ivory at first, which was not afterwards to be seen, we had a suspicion it might be a design of the *English* to amuse us with their Trade, whilst they could get more men together out of the Countrey: Upon vvhich grounds, that very night (though one of our Officers left a golden ring vvith the Captain, as a gage for his word) we vvweigh'd anchor and away for *Rio-Sextos*.

Being on the other side of *Cap. Misurado*, we discovered fires, which the *Mores* had made along the shores, which is the ordinary signe they use, to signifie to such Ships as pass by, that they have Merchandise for them, upon which accompt vve resolved to cast anchor.

RIO DE JUNCOS.

ABout 9 or 10 a clock vve came to an anchor, directly over against the fires upon the shore, we shot off two great Guns, to invite them aboard, but seeing none of them come, vve mann'd out our shallop after dinner, and sayl'd tovvards them vvith some few Merchandises, but vve could not reach the shore, within fifty paces, vvithout inevitable danger of bulging.

Seeing some *Mores* upon the banks, vve made signes to them to come to us, and they came swimming half vvay, and vvent back again, nor could all our allurements vvin them aboard, till at last two of them ventured in a *Canoe*, and vv ere kindly received, which they on the shore observing,

78 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

three of them threw themselves immediately into the Sea, and swam to us; we presented them with a bottle of Strong-waters, which they carryed on shore to their infinite satisfaction: we shew'd them our Kettels, and what other Commodities we had, at the sight of which, they made a thousand expressions of joy, and could have done no more, if Paradise it self had been shovvn them: they ask'd us if we had any large vvhite *Rasade*. Those vvhich vvere upon land, held up great, and great quantity of Elephants teeth, to hasten us to them, but having used our utmost endeavour to no purpose, and finding it impossible to come at them without manifest danger, we sent back the two *Mores* (vvhich came to us) to them: Who by their aspect and *Mine*, seem'd to be persons of more then ordinary quality.

Rio

A Voyage to Guinee. 79

Rio de Funco is a River vvhich lyes five degrees and fifty minutes of Northern latitude, and of Eastern longitude, nine degrees, ten minutes. The mouth of it is known by three great trees which stand very high, and three great Mountaines over against them, but at some distance into the land; the mouth of it is near five hundred paces over, but shallow, the banks so well decorated with trees, and flowers, that considered with the smoothness and serenity of the stream, they make a most admirable Landship.

Orange-trees, Citrons, and Palme-trees, are planted all along, and in most exquisite order, and (as the *Mores* which came aboard intimated to us) they have abundance of all things, especially Poultry and Palme-Wine. We went aboard, and perceiving no

80 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

body came at us, we set sayle that night, and came the next morning before *Petit Dieppe*.

P E T I T D I E P P E .

Petit Dieppe is a Town not far from a River, which casts it self into the Sea, and in its passage, twisting about a spot of ground, formes it self into no contemptible Island: it was formerly in the possession of the *French*, but deserted long since; at the disembogement of this River, there are many Rocks, which make the entrance more then ordinarily difficult: We discovered a little Vessel upon this Coast, and gave chase to it, but without any success.

The 22th we came to *Rio-Sextos*, whose description followes,

R I O -

RIO-SEXTOS.

R*io-Sextos* is a River, which comes a great way down the land, North and North-West, and is about half a league over at the mouth of it. On both sides it is set very pleasantly with Trees, very large, and very tall; about three leagues up the River, the *English* had formerly a house, but there is nothing of it left but the Walls. This River will carry a Yacht or large Barke a douzaine leagues and more up into the Countrey.

It was called *Rio-Sextos* by the *Portugais*, from a certain kind of Pepper which grows by it, and is called *Sextos* by them, the same I suppose with what we call *Malaquette*, which I shall speak off more particularly in the next Chapter:

82 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

We were told by their Fisher-boats, that about a fortnight before there pass'd two *Flemish* Vessels that way to the *Mine*, that we might finde good quantities of Ivory, but that their *Canoes* being so small, it would be necessary for us to carry our Merchandise on shore: where-upon we anchor'd about half a league from land, in about 16 fathom water.

Some of our Officers went a shore in our shallop, and carryed some Commodities along with them, to begin the Commerce; they carryed them three leagues up the River, and their King (who lived yet higher into the Countrey) came down to see them, and according to Custome had his usual presents.

They came back very late, and the Notary at his return gave me this accompt of him, that he was
a very

a veay lusty man, with a stern and supercilious aspect; that he profess'd great friendship for the *English*: That he brought down great store of Ivory with him, but having furnish'd the two *Flemish* Vessels so lately, he held it so dear, there was no dealing with him for it. That they seem'd worse natured then the *Mores* at *Miserado*; But that the River was very fine, and is full of little stones upon the shore like our Flints, only these are harder, and give more fire upon any collision.

Whilst they were amongst them, there came about ten or twelve of their *Canoes* aboard us with a kind of Sea-Pike (an excellent good fish) and several other sorts, of which we bought some.

The people are generally well proportioned, and bearing every one of them the name of some Saint

84 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Saint or other, I had a great curiosity to know how that custom came upon them. I took one of them a side, and having cajoled him with a glass of Wine, and Strong-water (which they love better then their Wives) I asked him the reason, and he told me, that when any Vessels pass'd that way, and did the Natives any kindness, it was usual to beg their Names at their departure, which they gave afterwards to their children, in memory of the courtesie they had received from them: Which convinc'd me, being imbellish'd with so noble a virtue as gratitude, they could not be so bad as they had been represented to me, and the rather, because the King of them having upon the death of an *English* Merchant seized upon all his Ivory and goods, did upon the arrival of the first *En-*

glisb

A Voyage to Guinee. 85

glifh Ship, voluntarily, and without any solicitation, deliver all to the Captain: An invincible argument of their piety and faith. I gave him that gave me this accompt, two little knives for his pains, and he was so surpris'd at the present, he desired my name, and I having told him, he oblig'd himself, if his Wife (which was big at that time) was brought to bed of a boy, he should carry my name, and if ever I return'd that way, he would bring him to see me.

All along this Coast, their manner of salutation is the same, they take our fore finger and thumb, into their hands, and putting them into a certain posture, they pull them hard, and make them snap, crying out *Aquio* when they have done, which is as much as *your* *Servant* with us.

This Countrey is very fertil,
well

86 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

well furnish'd with Fowl, and Rice, and Millet, of which they make all the bread, which they carry with them in their *Canoes* when they go out a fishing, which (as I have observed) they are very neat and exact in keeping clean.

He that would stay upon the place, might make very good advantage either by Rice, or Pepper, or Ivory, which is excellently good; their kindness has been always more conspicuous to the *French*, then either to the *Hollander* or *Portugal*, neither of which, they would ever suffer to cohabit with them.

On the three and twentieth by break of day, we discovered a little Fleet of *Canoes* of about forty, which were going a fishing, and within a quarter of an hour they dispersed themselves every way: Of the whole *Armada*, their was but

but one came up to us, with some few Elephants teeth, which he held so dear, he had his labour for his paines, and carryed them off as he brought them; whereupon we also weigh'd anchor for *Rio-Sanguin*, which is the first place upon the Coast of *Malaguet*, and about twelve leagues from *Rio-Sextos*; for four hours together we steer'd Southward to avoid the Rocks which ly in great numbers betwixt *Rio-Sanguin*, and *Rio-Sextos*, after which we steer'd East and by North, and came safe to *Rio-Sanguin*.

That the *French* had the pre-occupancy of these Coasts, in respect of all other Nations of *Europe*, I think is clear from the Names of several Bayes, and a hundred other monuments of their glory: But at present we have nothing left there, nor indeed any body,
but

88 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

but the *English*, who by means of seven or eight houses, doe carry away as it were the whole profits of the place.

The *Portugais* succeeded the *French*, but being over-power'd by the *English*, and the *Dutch*, and beaten off from the Coasts, in the year 1604. they retreated farther into the Countrey, and marrying with the Natives, have begot that generation of people, they call *Mulletto's*, or Olive-couler'd, and have by that means acquired such an interest amongst them, as have been the cause we have made no further discoveries there, and that they doe to this day go away with the whole Inland Trade; he that should endeavour to share with them being certain to be destroyed by their great influence and authority with the *Negros*: So that they have ingross'd that whole
com-

A Voyage to Guinee. 89

commerce to themselves, passing up and down every where as they please, and running up the *Niger* as far as *Benin*, which is more then 800 leagues.

They it is that have been the los of *Cantoz* to the *Danes*, which is a little Island upon the *Niger*, two hundred leagues above the mouth of the *Gambie*.

Their authority over the *Mores* upon the Coasts is so great, they manage them as they thinke good, and we can never read that they have at any time rebelled against them, as they have frequently done against the rest of the *Europeans*; Nay so absolute is their Empire, they are many times served at the Table by the Sons of that King, which is so superlative a command, there can be nothing beyond it; Yet if any other *European* does but quarrel or affront any
of

90 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

of their Grandees, there is nothing but they will attempt which may contribute to their revenge. One of them who came to traffick with us at *Sierra-Leone*, told me, he did use every year to go to *Senegal*, which is two hundred leagues from *Sierra-Leone*, and that where he had not the convenience of a river, both himself and his Commodities were carryed up into the Country on the backs of the *Mores*.

They have all of them little Chappels, built near their houses, in which they use all possible means for the conversion of those people, and when they have had any success, and made a proselite, they hang Chappelets about his neck, and have a particular care of them ever after.

THE



THE COAST
OF
GRAIVES
CALLED
MALAGUETTE.

UPON the three and twentieth
of *January*, the same day
we set sayle from *Rio-Sextos*, we
came to an anchor before *Rio-*
Sanguin, where the Coast of *Mala-*
guette, or *Manigette* begins, and
extends it self sixty leagues to the
Cape de Palmes, about three degrees
and forty minutes of Northern lati-
tude, comprehending all these
places, *Rio-Sanguin*, *Cestre-Croix*,
Brova,

92 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Brova, Bassou, Zino, Crou, Crois-sestre, Wapo, Batou, Grand-Sester, Petit-Sester, and Goiane, all which places we visited in nineteen days, which we dedicated to our traffick in those parts.

Rio-Sanguin runs into the Sea South South-East, and will carry a *Petach* about twelve leagues, and no more; upon its bank it has a Town of about a hundred houses, and large Trees on both sides of it, but is not five hundred paces broad at the widest part of it.

That night there came a *Canoe* aboard us with three *Mores*, one of them was the Kings Brother, who having been three years in *Holland*, spake very good *Dutch*; he sent back his Company, and his *Canoe*, and sup'd and lodged with us that night. At supper he told us, that about a Month before, there was a *Flemish* Ship put in at

Rio-

A Voyage to Guinea. 93

Rio-Sanguin for fresh water and wood, but that discovering an *English* Vessel making towards them, he weigh'd anchor and away, and being a good sayler, got off, and that the Vessel that chaced them returned, and steer'd his old course for *Rio-Sextos*. He described the bulk of it so well, we concluded it was the Ship we had seen crusing up the Coast of *Petit Dieppe*. He told us moreover, that a while since the *English* had a house at *Rio-Sanguin*, but for four years last past, they had none; and that a little Vessel going by lately, had surprized about a douzain *Mores* near *Crousester*, and carryed them away.

As we were hoisting sayle on the five and twentieth, the King of *Rio-Sanguin* came aboard us, attended with two other *Canoes*, and about ten or twelve *Mores*.

He

94 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

He was an ancient man, very grave, and venerable, his haire very white, yet his person large and lusty; his habit blew, like their habits at *Cap de Monte*. That which was most remarquable was, he drank neither wine, nor Strong-water, nor Palme-Wine, nothing but pure water; he and his Brother both stay'd with us till night, and having received some presents, they departed.

We had pass'd the places above-said, as far as from *Rio-Sanguin* to *Wapo*, where being at anchor, the third of *February*, about Sun-rising we discryed a Vessel at Sea, making towards us with all the sayle she could make: We thought at first it had been the *English* Piqueroon we had been told off, for which reason we stood all that night to our armes, but the next day the hopes we had of over-powring and
taking

A Voyage to Guinee. 95

taking her, vanished with the Vessel, which we could never see more.

Till *Saturday* the fifth we spent our time wholly in traffick, on which day, having come to an anchor at *Baton*, we discovered another Vessel coming towards us also with full sayles: The number of *Mores* who were then aboard us, hindered us from discovering them perfectly, but coming nearer, we could discry the Vessel to be as bigg as ours, whereupon we dismissed our Merchants, weigh'd anchor, and stood towards them directly, resolved not only to defend our selves, but to venture upon them. When we were come within a league of him, he hung out his *Dutch* colours, and clapt his *Cornette* upon his *Sprit-sayle*, and we hung out our *French*. When we came nearer, we knew the Ship
to

96 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

to be a Frigat of *Amsterdam*, of about 400 Tunne, and 36 pieces of Ordnance, set out by a private person, and by the authority, and consent of the *East-Indy Company*, sent to *Ardres*. The Captain called *VVilere*, having boasted when we were in the *Texel*, that if he found us upon these Coasts, he would either sink or take us; we took down our *French* colours, and put up a red flagg, endeavouring, and tacking three hours together, to get the wind of him, he had all his sayles out, and his capps up, and yet sayled worse then we. About Sun-setting he furled his sayles, and having lost the wind, and we within twenty paces of him, he made signes with his hat to know if we were not the *En- rope*: he told us his name, and calling for a glass of Wine, began a good soup to our healths, and we

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A Voyage to Guinee. 97

did him reason in our turne. After which he took his leave, continued his course to the *Mine*, and we came that night to an anchor before *Grand Sestre*, called formerly by the French *Paris*; where the rest of our time we spent in our Negotiations and Trade.

This Coast is called the Coast of *Malaguette*, in respect of the Pepper (which I have mentioned before) at *Rio - Sextos*, which amongst the French is called *Malaguette*, or *Maniguette*, which commodity is more profitable then can be imagined, especially if Pepper be dear, and the *Indy Fleet* comes not unluckily in, but if that falls out, it sells not altogether so well: This is the principal Commodity of this Coast, and is sharper and hotter then the ordinary Pepper, and particularly then the white.

All the Towns along these

E Coasts

98 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Coasts are built upon the backs of some little River, or other which gives them their Names: The chief are *Rio-Sanguin*, the *Grande Sestre*, which runs a good way up into the Countrey, and is deep enough to carry a *Petach*: which the Inhabitants of *Dieppe* called *Paris*, in comparison of the abundance of Pepper at both places.

All these Coasts are bordered with great Trees, the land very low, and fatt, and water'd with so great a number of Brooks, and Rivelets, that they render the aire so very unhealthfull, there are but few of the Whites can stay long there without being sick.

We understood nothing of their language, so they were put to explaine themselves by signes, they have no ill Physiognomy, their proportion is good, they go alway

naked

A Voyage to Guinee. 99

naked with their head, and have only a little piece of linnen before, for the shelter of their whole body: And though the aire be so ill, and unwholsome, yet they are so hardy and strong, I saw one of them that had a Rupture hung down to the middle of his legg, and a lusty cutt over the Pate, that had lay'd his skull as naked as his back, and yet he came aboard us every day, smoaking and drinking Strong-waters, with the best of them, as if he ail'd nothing at all.

They work excellent well in Iron: at *Grand Sester* they mended our shears for us, with which we cutt out our barres of Iron, and gave them such a temper as made them incomparably better then they were at first.

Besides this Pepper, this Coast affords *Rice* and *Millet* (of which they make their bread, and brought

100 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

us good store of it) excellent Peas, (very tender and good, boyled) Beans, Citrons, Oranges, Bullys, and a kind of admirable Nutt, the shell something thicker then ours, but without any skin over the kernell, but all round like your Almonds or *Pistaccios* of *Spaine*.

They have likewise store of Oxen, Cows, Goats, Hoggs, Pullen, and other Fowle, which may be collected from the price that they bear.

Their Palme-Wine is very good, and especially the Plums, which are so pleasant, I have seen them on Ship-board refuse all that could be offered, to be crawnching of them; and this is all I can say of the Coast of *Malagnette*, for as to their Religion and manners, understanding but little, I shall say nothing at all, only I imagine they

A Voyage to Guinee. 101

they have as many Wives as they can keep, for the *More* at *Rio-Sanguin*, told us his Brother had fifty, and himself fifteen.

The Inhabitants of *Dieppe* have traded long upon these Coasts, and were grown so cunning at their Trade, they had found the way of mingling this Pepper with that of the *Indies*, before it was grown so common, and the *Portugais* had discovered the Island of *St. Thomas*, and from thence diffused themselves all over *Guinee*, by which it appears we Traded there formerly, and every thing contributes to confirm it, for besides the *Grand Sester*, which retaines still the name of *Paris*, that little language they speak intelligibly is *French*: They call not Pepper *Sextos* with the *Portugals*, nor Grain with the *Hollanders*, but *Malaguettes* with us,

102 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

and if a Vessel at any time comes in, when their salutations are over, they cry out as loud as they can, *Malaguette tout plein, tout plein, tant a terre de Malaguette*, which is *French* they learned from us, and nothing else.

If they meet any of their friends from a different place, they take one another by the upper part of the arme, and stretching them out, they cry *Toma*, then they come to the elboe, and grasping it hard they cry *Toma* again; and at last catching one another by the fingers, as I have observed at *Rio-Sextos*, they make them snapp as they did there, crying out, *Enfa Nemate, Enfa Nemate*. Which the *More* that speak *Dutch*, interpreted to us, and told us it was no more then, *My dear friend how is it, all that I have is at your service, even to my life it self*. From which

which very complement we may conclude the language is more elegant than we imagine, to one that understands it.



THE COAST

OF

ELEPHANTS TEETH.

ON Friday morning the 11th of February, we weigh'd anchor before *Goyane*, and steered a South-East course, to double the *Cape de Palmes*, and avoid the Rocks which encompass it, which we continued for a while, and came at last to an anchor before *Grova*, which is the first place upon the *Teeth-Coast*.

This *Cape* is denominated from

104 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

the Palme-trees, which doe shadow it on all sides near the Sea, it rises in several hills, covered all over with those kind of Trees, and lyes in four degrees and ten minutes of Northern latitude, and twelve and a half of longitude Eastward.

The Coast also takes its name from the vast quantity of Elephants teeth sold there, which is so great, that though all the Ships that are bound for *Ardres* or the *Mine*, doe pass that way, yet they seldome or never have any Merchandise left, which they bring thither to exchange.

It extends it self four and twenty leagues, from the *Cape de Palmes* to the River d' *Asene*, where the *Golden Coast* begins, and contains these places upon the Sea: *Crova*, *Tabo*, *Petit-tabo*, *Grand-drouin*, *Tao*, *Rio S. Andre*, *Giron*, *Petit-drouin*,

A Voyage to Guince. 105

drouin, Bortrou, Cap la hou, Jacques la hou, Vallochk, and Gomme, where the ordinary trade is, where we spent seventeen dayes, without any considerable accident, unless it be that which happen'd at *Cap la hou*.

On *Saturday* the 26th. being at anchor there, the Seamen discover'd a ship making towards us with full sayl; we imagin'd at first it might be the *English* *Privatier* the *More* had given us notice of at *Rio-Sanguin*; we weigh'd anchor immediately, and made as fast towards him, having put out our *French* colours, which he saluted with a volley of Canon, and hung out the colours of *Holland*, which we gratify'd with another. He sent out his shallop forthwith to discover us, and although he which commanded understood very well the greatest part of our

106 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Equipage were *Flemings*, he could not be perswaded aboard us, but return'd ; a while after, the shallop came to us again, bringing their Lieutenant along, who came aboard, was civilly received, and staid with us two hours ; and in the mean time, this little Vessel of *Brittainie* (though commanded by a *Zelander*, and was not above 100 Tunn) made like a Pinnace with 8 guns, and 40 men) sayled round about our Vessel, the Captain making his Drums and his Trumpets sound all the while, with a thousand other ostentations of joy. He told us for news, that at his departure from *Flushing*, he came out with 26 other Privatiers in his company, but that they were dispers'd in a Storm, and he heard nothing of them since : that as he was entring into *Sierra Leone*, he found the little Vessel we

saw

saw as we came out, who complained, that the *English* man which we had imprisoned and ransom'd again, had seiz'd his long boat or shallop, with nine of his men, whilst they were fishing, and that the same *Portugals* we had traded withall, had assisted them; whereupon he thought himself obliged to vindicate himself, and did it so effectually, that he beat the house down with his great Guns, kill'd several of the *Mores* which defended it, and rescued his nine men, paying three thousand weight of Ivory for their Ransome, which had not been done, had not the *Mores*, upon the approach of these two ships, carryed them all into the Woods; we gave him a Collation, and then he took his leave. About midnight, the Captain himself came aboard us to drink and be merry

108 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

merry with our Officers, but he told us no more then his Lieutenant, only this, that the *Mores* who were by us when we weigh'd anchor to meet him, had come to him, and told him, in these words, *If you be English, you must run for it, but if Dutch, you are safe enough.* After which they all clapt themselves down close in their *Canoes*, to attend what would follow, and in case we had fought, and one of us been sunke, to have had the benefit of the pillage: At his departure we gave him three Guns for a farewell, which he repayed exactly when he got aboard; we gave him a Cheese, two Barrels of Powder, and four Bullets, he told us he was bound for the *Mine*, from thence to *Ardres*, to *Capotopo* and *Gonsalves*, and that if he met with no prize there, he would go unto the *Isles*; but we heard afterwards

A Voyage to Guinee. 109

wards at the Isle of *S. Thomas*, that he pass'd by there with 400 *Negroes*, which he had taken about the *Cap de Lopes*, out of two Vessels, which had put in there for fresh water; the first yielded without any resistance, the other having lost his maine mast, he sunk to the bottom.

The same day the *Mores* perceiving we were friends, came aboard us again, to finish their Markets, which being done, the next we set sayle for the *Golden Coast*.

This Country produces great quantity of Rice, Pease, Beans, Berrys, Citrons, Oranges, Coconuts, &c. Besides which the Natives brought us Sugar-Canes aboard, of a very considerable bigness. 'Tis one of the best Countries in *Guinee*, the Hills and the Valleys are admirable, the great
Rocks

110 *A Voyage to Guinée.*

Rocks of Mountaines, which are red, with the constant verdure of the Trees wherewith they are covered, by the variation of Colours make a delicious prospect: But even of these places the *Grand Drouin*, and the *Rio S. Andre* are the best.

The *Grand Drouin* is situate in the midst of a little River, which winds about a little Island betwixt two Mountains; it is encompass'd with excellent Meadows, and is wash'd so gently by the water, you would think it was affraid to come near it.

Rio S. Andre of all *Africk* is the properest place for building, the River of the same name, runs up far into the Countrey, and not far from the place where it falls into the Sea, it divides it self into two branches, one running North-West, and the other East: It is
bor-

A Voyage to Guinee. 111

bordered on both sides with very fair Trees, environed with fine Meadows and Fields, and is deep enough to carry a Yacht an indifferent way up. The Rock at the Sea side, at the mouth of the River, is three hundred paces in circumference the top, which being flat, commands all the Countrey about it without any contest. 'Tis very steep towards the Sea, and on the East-side, and indeed inaccessible, unless by the River on the West, which makes it so near being an Island, that the cutting but of 15 paces of earth, would make it one entirely; On all other sides it is encompass'd with Rocks under water, upon which even a shallop would be lost: The fresh water which comes out of a Fountain at the foot of a large Mountain, which covers this Rock on the North-side, may be defended

112 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

defended from thence with the shot of a *Falcon*; and the Towns of *Petit-Drouin*, *Tao*, and *Groua*, are at no greater distance then the *Grand Drouin*, which is only one league and no more: From the top of this Rock *Giron* may be discerned on the East, built upon the side of a delicate large Meadow, and *Tabo* on the West at the end of a faire Campagnia, planted up and down with curious Woods, which run up a good way into the Countrey, and terminate at the foot of several great Mountaines, which are visible from thence.

Saturday the 9th of *February* we came to an anchor, and took in fresh water all the rest of the day, as well as on the *Sunday* and *Munday* following, which gave me opportunity of considering these following observations: The water we took in at this place served

A Voyage to Guinee. 113

served us almost till we came at the Isle of *S. Thomas*: The Fountain is very pure, but being shadow'd by a very large Tree, at the fall of the leave, when they fall into the Fountain, they render it something black for a time.

Upon these Coasts they have great quantities of Bullocks, Goats, Kids, Hoggs, and Dear, which are so cheep, one may buy a good Beef of them for a douzain of knives of about twenty pence, and a good Roe-Buck for the same price.

The People are well made, strong, lusty, their limbs large and fat, but their looks austere and dreadfull, and 'tis reported they doe eat the Whites: I never heard of any house built by the *Europeans* in these parts where they land but very rarely, and have as little to doe with them as they can.

'Tis

114 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

'Tis not above thirteen or fourteen years ago, since fourteen *Hollanders* were killed, and eaten at *Rio S. Andre*, as they were taking in fresh water, without any occasion of quarrel; for which reason, we went always well armed, and were always upon our guard.

The common people wear only a linnen cloth before, but the *Gandees*, and Nobles of the Country are conspicuous by a kind of Mantle they wrap about them, and a poyniard by their sides. They are great lovers of great heads of haire, which they breid for one another very handsomly, and then bind them up upon their heads, but the Womens hair they usually cut.

The women of *Giron*, and *Petit-Drouin*, had the curiosity to come and look upon us as we were taking in water, and to bring their daughters along with them, the
linia-

A Voyage to Guinee. 115

liniaments and features of their
faces were so just and regular, that
(bate them the unhappiness of
their complexion) they were ab-
solute beauties: Amongst fifty of
them which I saw, there was not
any fatter or taller, whereas on the
contrary not one of a hundred
amongst the men but are both:
The women have only a cloth
before, and are the least covered
observed any where upon those
Coasts; if there be any thing besides
their colour amiss in their faces, it
is, that they threaten revenge and
mischief a little too much. When
they come aboard any Ship, the
Captain of it must come to them,
and it is their custom whilst they
have one foot upon their *Canoe*,
and the other upon the Ship,
holding by one hand upon the
Rope, they dip the other in
the Sea, and throw their handfull
upon

116 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

upon his head, which is intended as a great instance of kindness and amity, and in this they are so pertinaciously superstitious, that without it they will never be forc'd nor perswaded to enter any Ship: and when they would affirm any thing with more vehemence than ordinary, they use the same ceremony: They are so diffident and distrustfull, they will never be got with all the art can be used, either under deck, or into any of the Cabaines, which the *Mores* of all other parts, would doe very freely.

They have a great fancy for bracelets of Iron, with rings and bells upon them, with which kind of Gallantry, most of their armes, and leggs, are plentifully furnish'd; they have great store of *Mullettoes* among them.

We could not understand their

lan-

A Voyage to Guinee. 117

language, nor they speak one word of *Portugais*: When they came first aboard us, they cryed, *Qua, Qua, Qua*, which we found afterwards to be as much as, *you are welcome*, or *good morrow*; for which reason the *Hollanders* have given the name of *Quaqua* to a good part of this Coast: they made great use of that word, especially if their Gutts had been filled.

The Commodities which this Countrey yeilds, are Elephants teeth, so large sometimes, that they weigh two hundred weight a piece, and then they are worth ten thousand livers: If we may credit those that live upon the *Gold Coast*, which are their Neighbours, they have so great number of Elephants, that they are forc'd for their security against them, to make their houses under ground: They

118 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

They kill as many of them as they can: but that which accommodates them with so many teeth, is that the Elephants doe shed them every three year, as the Staggs doe their Hornes.

This Countrey affords likewise good store of Cotton, of which they make a pritty sort of Stuff, strip'd with white, and blew, about three quarters broad, and three or four ells long, which is much valued amongst them, and sold afterwards at a good rate upon the *Gold Coast*, to cover their Pefantry there.

They have Gold amongst them likewise undoubtedly, for without any Commerce or communication with their Neighbours, they bind up their hair for the most part with hair laces of Gold very curiously made; I made a sign to one of them, to know which way

A Voyage to Guinee. 119

way they came by it, and he show'd me the great Mountaines up the Countrey afar off, and sign'd to me from thence. For which reason, he that should make further discovery of these parts, would questionless encounter many rarities, and without any great difficulties, in regard the Countrey consists for the most part of Plaines. The Inhabitants here are more afraid of fire arms, then of all the inventions in *Guinee*.

The 26 of *February* we weigh'd anchor, and continuing our course all *Sunday*, about evening we made the *Golden Coast*, and stood to it directly.

COSTE



COSTE D'OR,
OR THE
GOLD COAST.

With a Relation of our occurrences there.

Munday the last of February, we came to an anchor, at sixteen fathom low water, at *Asbini*, the first place upon the *Gold Coast*: The Countrey thereabouts is very low: the Town is seated upon the mouth of a River of that name, which runs up North-West amongst the Hills, and South into the Sea, we stay'd there three days bartring for Gold-Sand.

The

A Voyage to Guinæe. 121

The 4th of *March* we past before *Albiani, Tabo*, and other Towns, upon that Coast: The Countrey here is but low likewise, very full of Trees, but no River at all: Those *Canoes* which came aboard us having assured us, they had no Gold, we gave them the go by, and past on.

We thought to have doubled the Cape of *Apollonia* that night, but two of their *Canoes* coming up to us, and promising faire, we believed them and cast anchor.

The next day some of their *Canoes* brought some Gold, which we bought of them, though it was not much: This Cape throws itself a far into the Sea, and raising itself by degrees into Hills, and then into a Mountaine, makes no unpleasant prospect. But it is of no good access, the Sea beating so violently upon it, there is great danger in approaching: We
F weigh'd

122 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

weigh'd anchor again that night, but the weather being calme, we could not reach *Axime* before Sunday in the afternoon, at which time we came to an anchor.

Axime is a Fort belonging to the *Hollanders*, some twelve leagues distant from the *Cape Apollonia*, situate upon the side of a River, which runs up Northward into the Countrey, and abounds with Gold-Sand, which is esteem'd the best of all that Coast. Its banks are higher then either *Asbini*, or *Cape Apollonia*: Before this place we stay'd all Sunday and Monday, but perceiving the *Dutch* obstructed the *Mores* coming aboard us, we weigh'd anchor on Tuesday, and doubled the *Cape de Tres-Puntas*, so called from three Mountains which appear so at a distance, and by the convenience of their position; doe make two little, but convenient Bayes.

A Voyage to Guinee. 123

In the afternoon we appear'd before *Botrou*, which is another little Fort belonging to the *Hol-lander*, situate beyond the *Cape* upon an eminence, at whose foot runs a brook that is not unpleasant: We stay'd here as long as we had any Trade, and departed the 11th being *Friday*.

We weigh'd anchor at that time, and came to anchor again betwixt *Saconde* and *Takorai*, about x leagues distant from *Botrou*: they are seated amongst the Mountains, which lean as it were upon the banks of the River they lye so near it; at which place, we receiv'd Letters from the Governor of *Frederisbourg*, not far from *Cape Corse*, offering us his road (if we pleased) in consideration of the alliance betwixt *France* and *Denmark*, desiring us also to send some of his Merchandise for him.

F z

We

124 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

We remained there *Friday* and *Saturday*, and it was no small trouble to me to see an ancient Fort which had been formerly ours, in its ruines and rubbish; it was a *Takorai*, upon a Mountain which commanded the whole Countrey the sides of it spake it but barren being quite naked of either Tree or grass, and the stone of a reddish complexion.

On *Sunday* the 23th we weigh'd anchor, and in two hours appear'd in the road *de Comendo*, whose Inhabitants are greater lovers of the *French*, then of any other *Europeans*: The Town (that may consist of about a hundred houses) built on the Sea-side, and watered by a rivulet, which falling into the Sea likewise on the South forms a pritty channel and Harbour for *Canoes*, and Shallops. The East-side lyes low, but the

We

West rises into a hill, which being flat a top, is very convenient to build upon. The house appertaining formerly to the *French*, stands upon the North-end of the Town, which runs up into the Countrey, and raises its self into little hills by degrees, at whose feet there are very fair Fields, and meadows, planted up and down with variety of fruit.

The *Mores* which came aboard us, were in great anxiety and disorder to resolve which way they should signifie their joy. Their King held his Court some four leagues from us in the Town de *Grand Comendo*, he sent us fresh meat, and other presents, invited us ashore to his Court, proffer'd us all the commodities of the Town, and sent us word, that he had received a banner which *walkembourg* who was General for the *Hollan-*

126 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

der at the *Mine*) had sent him
and return'd him this answer
That that *Countrey* had been al
wayes in the possession of the French
and that they only should be welcom
thither.

We returned him many thanks
sent him our presents, and stay'd
where we were to the 16th of
March, and then set sayle for
Frederisburgh, and came before
the *Castle of Mine* before night
we found three Vessels in that
road, but not considerable. This
Castle I shall say nothing of
being so famous both for its situa
tion, the commodity of its Har
bour and Fort, and the great Trade
which is drove there.

Two hours after we past before
Cape Corse, where the *English* have
a very strong Fort, which made
resistance to all the *Dutch Fleet*
under the command of *du Ruiter*

The

A Voyage to Guinee. 127

The Harbour is very safe, and the Castle fortified with three Batteries, one above the other: The Town consists of more than 200 houses, in the middle of which there is daily kept so considerable a Market, that it is eminent for its plenty all over those Coasts.

At length about 3 hours after we came before *Frederisbourg*, and saluting the Governour with 5 Guns, he returned our civility with 3, which we again requited with one.

The Castle of that name was built by the *Danes*, in assistance to the *Mores*, after they were beaten from *Cape Corse* by the *Dutch*, which was taken from them again by the *English*, with the assistance of the *Dane*, and as a mark of their interest, he retains a great house at the end of the Town, with a *Danish* Officer and Garrison, and the colours of *Denmark* set out upon the top on't.

128 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Frederisburgh is seated upon a high Mountain, which runs up into a point: The whole circuit of it amounts not to 300 paces, and commands all about it, even *Cape Corse* it self, which is not above Musquet shot from it: The forme of the Plott upon which it is built is round, but the Fort triangular, fortified with three Bastions, one of them played Southward upon the Road, the other Westward upon *Cape Corse* and the third towards the Fort *de Nassau* or *de Moure* to the East. The foot of this Mountain (which is not above 100 paces high) and cannot be ascended but by going about) is compass'd by houses which the *Mores* have built that inhabit there.

We were no sooner at anchor but we dispatch'd one immediately with our complement to the Gene

ral

A Voyage to Guinee. 129

ral, called *Henry Dalbreckhe*, a *Hamburger* borne; he was but a little man of his person, but fierce, and briske, and yet courteous with all, witt enough, and very civil.

He sent his Secretary aboard us, by name *Dasse* of *Amsterdam*; who had been there six years; he came in a *Canoe*, conducted by eight Slaves, which sang and ranted all along as they row'd, which it seems is the custom when they bring any Whites with them, and before they put them aboard, they row three times about the Vessel, with as much force and expedition as they can row. As he enter'd, we gave him three Guns, and spent the rest of that day and night in his entertainment: This night we had the greatest storme we had seen in all our voyage, in so much, we were oblig'd to cast out our greatest

F 5 anchor,

130 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

anchor, but it ceast at last, and the next day having lay'd by such commodities as the General had desired, he took his leave and returned.

On *Saturday* morning our Notary going a shore with the Merchandise he desired, they shot from *Cape Corse* at our shallop, and the bullet fell within six or seven foot of them: The Governour of *Frederisbourg* immediately fired a great Gun upon the Castle, and the bullet fell at the foot of the second Battery, to which they replied, but without balls, seeing the General took us into his protection, and after that used no act of hostility more. The reason was, because though there be war declared betwixt *England* and *Denmark*, upon the *Hollanders* account, yet the Generals of these two Forts have made an amicable agree-

A Voyage to Guinee. 131

agreement, to commit nothing of hostility betwixt themselves, and it is so punctually observed, the Souldiers of both Garrisons meet dayly, eating and drinking together at their pleasures.

The two and twentieth I went on shore my self, and was receiv'd with all civility, and very good cheer by the General, he inquired of me what news, I answered him in Latin, which he spake very well, but no French at all: I understood from him that the Kings of that Countrey had been at wars four years, which was a great impediment to their Trade; that we should find three *English* Vessels in *Ardres* road, and that he was obliged to send provisions to *Christiansbourgh*, where the war was yet so hott, all that Countrey lay unmanured: in short I was so much engaged to him, that
upon

132 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

upon several occasions which I had to converse with him, he us'd all means to satisfie my curiosity, and to instruct me in the manners of the Countrey.

All the rest of that month, and the four first dayes of *April*, we spent in traffique, and on the fifth we discern'd a *Petach* passing towards the *Mine*, with a great shallop full of Souldiers which the *Dutch* General sent to *Cormentin*, a Fort which belongs to them: we were utterly ignorant of the design, but were told afterwards by the *Mores*, that the Governour of that Fort being gone to *Anembou* with several of his Souldiers to drink and be merry (there being the best Palm-wine in *Africk*) had been seized upon, and all his company with him, by the King of that Countrey, in whose dominions *Cormentin* stood, and that

two

Voyage to Guinee. 133

two of them endeavouring to defend themselves, were kill'd: the ground of this Insurrection was this; The King of *Fantin* having engag'd himself to the *English* at *Cape-Corse*, to put them again into possession of that Fort, had given them his Son in hostage, and desiring to have him restor'd, and the *English* refusing till his Articles were perform'd, he had seized upon the Governour, and four other *Hollanders*, with design to exchange them for his Son.

Thursday the seventh of *April*, we had news that the Controuler general of *Holland* was kill'd at *Axime*, and the *Mores* of those parts had unanimously declar'd for the *English*.

That day we arrested two *Mores* in our ship, and kept them prisoners, to secure a debt due to us from two Merchants on shore; they

134 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

they continued two dayes with us, but the *Denmark* General interposing, we gave them their liberty, and were paid by the Merchants within eight dayes afterward.

On *Good-Friday* the 8th. of *April*, we weigh'd anchor in order to our passage to *Eniacham*, a Town about four leagues distance from *Frederisbourg*, who gave us his guns when we went off, and we return'd ours in requital. We sayl'd by *Moure*, where the Fort of *Nassau* is, which belongs to the *Hollanders*, and is some two leagues and a half from the Castle of the *Mine*. This Fort is scituate upon a Rock, flankt with four Bastions, the Sea washes the foot of it, and the Town of *Moure* (which consists of about two hundred houses) encompasseth it about on all sides but towards the Sea: it holds of the
King

A Voyage to Guinee. 135

King of *Acanis-petit*, as well as the Town of *Icome*, which is not above a quarter of a league from it, on the Sea-side too.

In the afternoon we came to an anchor before *Eniacham*, where the *English* have a little Fort upon a little Eminence, about six hundred paces within land: near which the King of *Sabou* has a Town, of whom *Eniacham* holds likewise. We saluted the Fort with three Guns, which they return'd immediately.

On *Easterday* the tenth of *April*, the *Mores* brought us good store of their *Palme-Wine*, and assured us their Merchants would come down the next day, and bring us gold enough: On *Munday* they sent us a *Fricassée* of Pullets, (which they dress as well as in *France*, as I shall mention hereafter) and acquainted us, that the King of *Fantins*

136 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Fantins Soldiers had entred *Sabou* in the night, killed four men, and taken several Prisoners. Upon which the Town of *Sabou* had sent away their Wives and Children, and put themselves in arms: We smelt their design, and resolved to return that night to *Frederisbourg*, having nothing to doe at *Cormentin*, because of the *Hollanders*, nor at *Akara*, by reason of the wars that King had with *Tacara*.

From *Eniacham* we could see *Cormentin*, but not distinguish the Fortifications by reason of the distance: It is scituate upon a Hill, and belongs to the *Hollanders*, who have a house at *Fantin* also, and another at *Nemabon*, a Town in the same Kingdom.

On *Tuesday* in the afternoon we set sayle for *Frederisbourg*, by the benefit of a North wind from the Hills, which blows constantly on
this

A Voyage to Guinee. 137

this Coast from midnight till noon, and about nine a clock we came to an anchor again : We stay'd there till we had put off all our commodities, and then away for the Isle of *Saint Thomas*, having been two months upon the *Golden Coast*, and forty dayes in *Frederisbourg* road, where I went on shore again, to informe my self more particularly of the manners and Customes of the Inhabitants of the *Golden Coast* : I had the good fortune to see the most of their curiosities, and to satisfy and informe my self of the rest from the General, the Minister, and the *Mores* of *Frederisbourg*, who all of them spake *Portugais*.

The

The Description of the
GOLDEN COAST.

THe Golden Coast lyes betwixt four degrees and a half, and six and a half of Northern latitude, and betwixt seventeen and twenty of longitude East: it has taken its name from the vast quantity of Gold is brought yearly from thence, as well from their Mines, as the Sand in their Rivers, and contains (besides the places above mentioned) *Rotou*, *Ronate*, and *Akara*, which lye more to the East; its extent is a hundred and thirty leagues. The bank of *Asbini* which is but low in *Axime*, rises near *Achema* to a Mountain, and then humbling it self to *Cape-Corse*, it raises it self again, and continues so the rest of the Coast; the

A Voyage to Guinee. 139

the circumference, comprehending the inland Countrey and all, contains about four hundred leagues, divided into the Kingdomes of *Asbini*, *Axime*, *Comendo*, *Fetu*, *Acanis-Petit*, *Sabou*, *Fantin*, *Akara*, and the Seignories of *Abrambou* and *Takara*, all which depend upon the King of *Acanis le grand*, who is called *Akim* (whose Imperial Town is situate 90 leagues Northward of the *Mine*) and may be called an Emperour.

Of the Stature and Proportion of the People of this Countrey, of their Wit, Inclination, Industry, and Habits.

THE Inhabitants of the Golden Coast are handsome, and well proportioned, they have nothing disagreeable in their Countenance, but the blackness of their
Com-

Complexion ; some of them have flattish noses, and all of them little ears ; their eyes are quick and sparkling, but above all, their teeth as white as Ivory, of which they have a particular care, and for their conservation, are perpetually champing a certain wood which grows in the kingdom of *Acanis*, which has a peculiar quality of making them white, of preserving their gums, and preventing any blackness or rottenness in them. Though their beards appear not so soon as ours, yet they affect them exceedingly, and their *Grandeess* and Officers wear them very long upon their chins, and some of them like the *Capuchins* with us. Their skin is black indeed, but smooth and delicate, without any hair, but as they grow old, their blackness lessens, and their hair which is short, black, and

A Voyage to Guinee. 141

and frizell'd, grows grizled by degrees.

Their Stomachs are generally so hot, they do not only digest all kind of meats that are roasted or boyl'd, but raw likewise; and some there are among them which prefer that to the other.

They are great lovers of cleanliness, and wash themselves dayly to prevent Vermin, rubbing afterward with oyl of Palmes. They are not at all asham'd of their nudity, but they have so great an abhorrency and detestation of belching, or any such thing, that they will sooner die than do it; and if it happens at any time they be in the company of any *Europeans* that are guilty of it, they run out of the room immediately, making the horriblest faces imaginable.

They have a great deal of wit, are solid in their judgements, cunning,

142 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

ning, and so dexterous and quick, one need never shew them the same thing twice: they are lyers to the highest degree, their memory transcendent, and though they can neither write nor read, yet they manage their Trade with the greatest exactness: they never dispute the commands which are laid upon them: you shall have a Merchant negotiating and managing four Marks of gold for twenty several persons, every particular man desiring five or six several Commodities, which he performs without hæitation or mistake.

Their address appears abundantly by their dexterity in their Commerce, they are all of them given to pilfering, covetous to that point, especially to the Whites, that they think they do a mighty act, if they present them with a little fruit: they are drunken,

A Voyage to Guinee. 143

quick, drunken, luxurious, and much
subject to the *Lues Venerea*, which
is no scandal amongst them: they
are but ill pay-masters, and satisfie
their debts with great difficul-
ty and unwillingness: they are
great enemies to cold weather, and
endure it with much impatience:
so proud, that their Merchants,
(who are all of them Nobles, Cap-
tains, or other great Officers)
march up and down the Streets
with their eyes fix'd upon the
ground, not vouchsafing so much
as a glance upon the common peo-
ple: behind them they have con-
stantly a Slave with a chair in his
hand, that they may sit down
when they please, it being thought
dishonourable to be too long upon
their leggs: they never answer any
ordinary person, but with great
superciliousness, and never speak
to them but with great Majesty:
to

144 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

to other people they are civil enough, and pay very much respect to the Whites, especially if they be Officers, to whom they never speak, but with their hat in their hand. The surest way of gaining their affection, is to be civil to them, which they value more than any other thing one can do.

Though the manner of their habits be much different from ours, yet they are as curious and as proud in them, as the best of us. When their Officers or Merchants walk in the Streets, or are in transaction with any Stranger, they take a piece of Silk, Taffaty, or fine Indian Damask, about two or three Ells long, which they tye about their waste, and afterwards bringing it betwixt their thighs, they let the two ends hang down before and behind almost to

A Voyage to Guinee. 145

the ground. Sometimes they wrap
other Stuffs about them, from
their breast to their mid-legg, or
else throw it over their shoulders
like a Mantle.

They order their hair in several
ways; but rich, and poor, & all, are
very curious in adjusting it hand-
somely, & inventing new modes &
gallantries to adorn it, it being the
only business almost which gives
their women employment. Most
of them have hats, some of Straw,
some of the Bark of trees, some of
Goats-skin, but their Slaves are
distinguish'd by going bare-head-
ed: they trim themselves up with
ivers Necklaces of *Rafade*, and
bracelets, which they beautifie
with little works of Gold, in ho-
nour to their God, after they have
utter'd out some of their Pray-
ers over it: they have Rings or
jewels upon the small of their

G

Leggs,

146 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

leggs, or else a string of Coraile, or the barke of the Tree, under which they pay worship to their *Fetiches*.

Though they love exceedingly to be spruce, yet they are good house-wives of their cloths, never put on their finery but upon some such extraordinary occasion as I have mentioned, and then whip and off with them again as soon as they come home, folding them up carefully, and putting them into chests, which they buy of the *Europeans* for that purpose, where they lye snugg till some new opportunity brings them abroad again: Nevertheless from the King to the Coblér they affect change of apparel, to make themselves more considerable, and that more or less according to their riches or gaires. And yet for all this in the main they are frugal enough,

will

A Voyage to Guinee. 147

will buy nothing that is superfluous, but what they doe buy, let it be stuff, or any thing else, they will be sure it be lasting and good, or they will be sure to have none of it, for all slight things they laugh at and despise.

*Of the women, their genious
humor, and habits.*

THe Women upon these Coasts are generally well hap'd also, but some of them are little, and some great and corpulent: the young Women doe place their principal care upon the whitening their teeth, and adorning their hair.

They have witt enough, good sense, honest, and obliging, but much more courteous then the men; they are very grave, addicted to frugality in their houses, but

148 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

to pompe and ostentation abroad :
But their lasciviousness is above
all, which they suck as it were
with their milk, playing hoyty-
toyty amongst the young fellows
starke naked. There are but few
of them barren before, but when
married they are seldome over
fertile, which may be attributed
to their temper and complexion,
for there is seldome any of them
have above four or five.

The Virgins, (to please, and to
enamour the young men, as soon
as they are up every morning)
take water and wash, and then
combe their kaire (which they
have in twice the plenty the men
have) with great curiosity, pla-
ting and disposing it in a hundred
several modes and gallantries,
gumming it with oyle of Palmes,
instead of mouth glew, tying it
with ribands if they have any, if

not

A Voyage to Guinee. 149

not adorning it with little pieces
of gold, or a certain red cockle
shell, which is very common a-
mongst them. Some of them paint
their foreheads with red and
white, and sometimes their eye-
brows, and cheeks: they cut and
carve their skins about their ears,
and temples, which rising up
in little blisters, they paint
them over with divers colours,
and fancy it a great addition to
their beauty: they have all of
them Pendants at their ears, they
all of them love the Ribbands,
and above all Ribbands, the red;
they wear necklaces of Corail, or
of *Rafade*, and bracelets not only
upon their wrists and their armes,
but upon their leggs, and their
ankles; the maidens for the most
part have their bracelets made of
the barke of that tree which is
dedicated to their *Fetiches*, which

150 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

are their Gods as I shall shew here after. When they go abroad, if they be the Wives of Merchants Officers, or Captains, in that Countrey, they have a piece of Silk, Taffaty, or other Stuff, either red, or blew, or violet-colour'd (which are the colours they are most pleased with) which they take and wrap about them from the breast to the mid-legg stuffing it out behind with a great Rouler. They have alwayes a great bunch of keys at their girdle though they have many times never a Chest in the world: they wear Bracelets of Ivory, and Gold and Rings in that abundance, one can see no fingers that they have sometimes; and in this posture they are fit to be seen: the common sort dress themselves as fine as they can too, but when they come in again, they are mighty
carefull

A Voyage to Guinee. 151

carefull to fold them up handsome-
y, putting on a kind of coarse
innen with which they make
hift to cover themselves from the
Navel, to the midst of their
Thigh. They love variety of ha-
bits too as well as the men, but the
Virgins especially, who make it
their whole business from morning
to night to spruce up themselves,
and make themselves acceptable,
above all to the Whites, whom
they seem to care for much more
than those of their own Com-
pletion.

Their Ladies of pleasure, are
not distinguishable in any thing,
they are welcome wherever they
go, and handsomely received by
every body; but they are more
mercenary and covetous than in
any other part of the world.

Of their Marriages, and the Education of their Children.

I Happen'd to be present at a Marriage whilst I was at *Frederisbourg*, which was consummated in no unpleasant manner. The Father of a young man finding him at age to get his living himself, looks out immediately for a Wife for him, and having pitch'd upon one he thinks will be proper, he goes to his Son, tells him what he has done, advises him to see her, if they like one another, his Father desires her of hers, if they agree, they go all of them together with one of the Priests who gives them *Fetiches*, and in the presence of the whole Assembly, the Bride takes a solemn Oath upon the *Fetiche* to be true and faithfull to her good man; her Groom

A Voyage to Guinee. 153

Groom promising on the other side as much to her very civilly, but no Oath of fidelity in the case. The Parents present one another reciprocally, and giving the Bride and the Bridegroom what they are able to spare, they spend the rest of the day in feasting and jollity, and there's an end of the Marriage.

However this Lady has this advantage over her Spouse, by being his first love, that he can never take another, but by her permission, which yet her Ladyship is seldom so morose as to deny. But it was my fortune to see a young Merchant of the *Mine* who had worse luck, his name was *Anthony*, he came several times aboard our ship, and never with less than ten or twelve Marks of Gold; amongst other discourse, I ask'd him one day how many Wives he

had, he told me but one, and the reason was, she was so cross grain'd a Jade she would let him have no more; and then told me very seriously, that amongst them that custom was inviolable.

Nevertheless, all women knowing very well, that variety of Wives and Children is the greatest honour and reputation to their husbands, and what they themselves will boast of to Strangers: when they see their husbands grow wealthy, and in a capacity of maintaining them, they themselves will press them to take more, which to speak truly, are no other than Concubines, they being not at all concern'd for their liberty or incontinence: the first has this privilege also, that she lyes three nights successively with the good man, whilst the younger brood must be contented with one, and

A Voyage to Guinee. 155

and that according to the priority of their Marriage. In short, they live very lovingly together, and have seldome any jealousies or animosity amongst them. A good Merchant, or Officer, will have twenty or thirty, according to his abilities. The King of *Fetu's* Son-in-law had forty, by whom he had a douzain of daughters, fourteen to the douzain of the other Sex, and kept constantly a hundred Slaves to attend them.

In those parts, who will may come into the Chamber of any Woman when she lyes in: as soon as the Child is safe in the world, they bring the good Woman a bottle of drink made of Rice, and Mays, and Water and Wine, and *Malaguette*, (not unlike our *Peper Poffet*) which having taken off kindly, they cover her well, and

156 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

and then leave her three or four hours to her devotions, which being over, she rises immediately, washes her Child, falls to her business, and there's an end of that labour; but (to be sober) I could not but admire very much the force of their temper, when I saw the very same thing done by a Slaves Wife at *Frederisbourg*.

As soon as they have wash'd their Child, the Father and Mother give it commonly a name, and for the most part, of some *European* or other they have been beholding to, that done, they wrap it in a kind of blanket, and then lay it in a skin upon the Rushes, where it lyes quietly till it be three weeks or a month old, after which time, the Mother carries it at her back upon a piece of wood with the leggs under her armpits, tying its two hands about her neck, where
it

A Voyage to Guinee. 157

it hangs all day, and never comes off, but when she goes to Bed; and this is the reason why the Children of their Nobles, or better sort, have feldome camous noses, because their Wives do not labour, nor carry their Infants about them, as the others do, whose Children sleeping many times whilst the Mother is walking or at work, knock their noses against their Shoulders, and so in time they become flat: if they cry out for the teat, they throw their breasts over their shoulders, and let them suck. Every morning they wash and rub them with Oyl of Palmes.

By that time they be seven or eight months old, they lay them along upon the ground, drawing them forward upon all four, like Kitlings, which possibly may be the reason the Children go much sooner in these Countreys than in *Europe.* Whilst

158 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Whilst they be thus tender and young, the Parents put little works of gold about their necks, wrapt up in the rind of the tree where they worship their *Fetiches*, for fear the Devil should run away with them, and when they come to be about four year old, they bind little branches of it (which they buy of their priests) about their armes, and their leggs, wreathing and bending them into a round figure, which they look upon as a great Antidote against any sickness or disaster whatsoever. In this manner they continue their care of them till they be seven or eight years old, but after that they feed upon the same as the Father and Mother does, heap-
ing up many time such nasty things as they find in the streets, which they eat afterward very heartily, when they are hungry: the boys
and

A Voyage to Guinee. 159

and the gyrles, being higledy-
pigledy together, and all naked,
it takes off much of their modesty,
and is a cause they are never
ashamed of any thing; to which
may be added their want of cor-
rection, their Parents being so far
from whipping them, they never
so much as rebuke them in the
least.

From the seventh or eight year
of their age they learne to swim,
which they doe with so much
succes and perfection, that when
they are grown up, if their *Canoe*
oversets at any time at Sea, they
are not afrighted, but swim back
again very quietly from whence
they came, they will dive excel-
lently well too, and fetch up goods
or any other thing that is acci-
dentally cast away, upon which
score one may see the shore so full
sometimes of little Blacks, one
would

160 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

would thinke them so many young Divels.

At twelve year old they fall under the jurisdiction of the Father, who shews them which way to get their livelyhood: if he be a fisherman he carries them to Sea, shews them how to make a *Canoe*, and which way to take fish; if a Merchant he teaches them the mystery of Trading, brings them acquainted with Forreigners, and instructs them in this manner till they be eighteen or twenty, and can begin to doe something for themselves, then he gives them Slaves to doe their work, and all the care that is behind, is to help them to Wives, which from that time forward they are always contriving.

The Gyrles are imployed in keeping cleane the houses, in picking their Rice, beating their *Mays*,
making

A Voyage to Guinee. 161

making their bread, managing their Kitchen, and buying or selling at the Markets what is to be bought or sold, sometimes they make baskets of rushes, sometimes matts (in which they are transcendantly excellent) sometimes weave, but above all their care is greatest of their Father and Mother, to see that they have their meat and drinke in good hours, and that nothing of their goods be imbezled; in short their is nothing of good housewivry or frugality, that is wanting amongst them, and when they are once marryed, they may teach that lesson to most of the Women of *Europe*.

of

162 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

*Of their Houses, Household-stuffe,
Drinke, Meat, Palme-Wine,
and how it is made.*

THe great Commerce they have had with the *Europeans* having learn'd them the art of building, the Officers and great Merchants of this Countrey have follow'd their directions, and built themselves houses, with high and lofty roofes, several appartements, with one chamber opening into another, and usually at the door of their chamber two Slaves constantly attending with darts in their hands in the nature of guards, which are releived at certain hours.

All their houses are made of earth, but the common people have their walls so low, they feldome exceed the height of a
man.

A Voyage to Guinee. 163

man. Their beame and rafters, and the whole frame of the house resting only upon them: the houses of the Grandees as well as the commons are all thatch'd, and have all of them but one little square hole, which serves for a door, to which they fasten a piece of board, without either lock or hinges, like the poor Peasants in the Countrey to their Garden-doors, and are contented to fasten them only with a rope, either without or within. Their windows are small, the earth they make their floors with, very close and compact, they have at least two chambers to a house, and this character must be given them, that they are very curious in keeping them neat, and paint them very frequently both without and within.

Amongst the common sort, there is

164 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

is nothing of household-stuff, or what is us'd commonly about the house, to be seen, all is lock'd up in their Coffers, which they buy of the Whites; except they be Merchants or great men, and then their Tables and Chairs appear sometimes, but never no Beds, for they lye alwayes upon Skins spread upon the ground, or else upon Mattresses made of Rushes, covering themselves with the Skins of Oxen, or some other Beast, without any Boulster, except they be of the Nobles, and then they have Pillows under their heads, and a good fire in the middle of their Room, but not the least hole for a Chimney.

Every woman has her apartment, or little house, joyning to her Husbands, consisting of one or two Chambers, where she manages her own affairs by her self, fe'dome

A Voyage to Guinee. 165

eldome eating or drinking together. Some of them go a Gossiping to their Neighbours, and carry such as they have along with them. The good man takes the same course, and he visits his Merchant, not so much as concerning himself how squares go at home, the women being alwayes very punctual to accommodate them with every thing necessary, and to bring up their Children carefully; yet sometimes on their Festivals, or upon some great occasion, their Stomachs come down, and they feed very lovingly together.

As the women have the charge of the house and the money, so they make it their whole business that neither of them miscarry in their hands. The men imploy themselves constantly abroad, either in matters of Trade, or in making of Palm-wine, or Fishing,

as

166 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

as every mans genious inclines him: when they have got any money they give it still to their wives, who order it so well, they never make the least unnecessary disbursement; they go every night themselves into the grainaries, delivering out such a proportion of corne as they judge will be necessary for the whole family the next day.

By break of day the young gyrles are up and at worke, beating their *Rice*, and their *Mays* (which is called *Turky* wheat amongst us) in a wooden Mortar, and when it is bruis'd, they grind it (as the Painters do their colours) betwixt two stones, and so reduce it to powder, then kneading it with water and salt, they divide it into a kind of penny loaves, and put it into a great earthen pot that stands upon the fire with a little earthen

A Voyage to Guinee. 167

earthen lidd, they throw embers upon it and 'tis done, if it be well bak'd, 'tis very good, and without any ill relish at all.

Their food generally is fish, though they have great store of flesh also, which they boyle or roast as they think good, but their fish is most commonly bak'd, being season'd first with water, and pepper, and salt: the great Merchants who have Slaves to wait on them at the Table, doe eat a *Europeenne*, and have their *Ragousts* as well made as in *France*, which they learn'd of us, and the Cook at the Fort of *Denmark*; yet there are some *Mores* will make a *potage*, or a *Ragoust* with the best *Cuisinier* in *Paris*.

They eat great store of fruit, of Peas, Beanes, and such like: they make usually but two meals a day, that is at Sun-rising, and Sun-setting,

168 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

setting, where they feed like *Cor-*
morants, and when they have ea
 never so much, are hungry still
 which I impute to nothing but an
 excessive heat within them, which
 gives them a *Canine* and perpe
 tually insatiable appetite, in so
 much that I have observed them
 when they have been at dinner
 Ship-board, one Black has eat a
 much as six of us could doe.

Their Mornings-draft, is eithe
 of water, or a kind of small beer
 which they call *Poiton*, and i
 made of *Mays*, but 'tis night before
 they drinke any Wine, and th
 reason is because the Peasant neve
 brings it to the Market till after
 dinner.

The Palme-Wine comes out c
 a Tree, not unlike our Date-trees
 the *Mores* make a hole at the to
 of the tree, to which they fasten
 pott, like one of the Monkes pi
 chers

chers, and the next day, or the day after, they find it full of a kind of juice like Milk, sweet, and very pleasant, but with a quality to inebriate. The *Mores* have got a trick of late to sophisticate it, and put water amongst it for their gain, but 'tis no hard matter to discover it. This Wine cannot be kept till next day, but will grow fower in a nights time, upon which grounds, the Merchants, and other good fellows do meet, and drink smartly many times, but with this ceremony alwayes, that they leave a little in the bottome, which they throw upon the ground in honour of their *Fetiches*.

Those who have no provision, or means to make any, are forc'd to buy what they want (at a little Market hard by) with what they have got by fishing, by

H making

170 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

making Palme-Wine, by building or repairing of houses, carrying home what the Merchants have bought on Ship-board, and such other servile employments as our Mechanicks in *France* live by: to which Market the Whites go also sometimes when their Stomach hangs after fish.

Of their Markets, their manner of buying and selling, with a description of their Measures and Weights.

THe best Market in all *Africke* is held every day at *Cape-Corse*, but we being at wars with *England*, I could have no sight of that, and therefore must be contented with the Market at *Frederisbourg*, which is not indeed so bigg, but there is the same thing observed in a place designed for

A Voyage to Guinee. 171

for the same use, and that is, that it be ordinarily in the midst of the Town.

By break of day the Peasants come in with their Sugar-canes, bound up like Fagots, their fruits of all sorts, *Plums, Potatoes, Turnips, Carrets, Citrons, Oranges, Rice, Mays, Malaguettes, Bread, Pullets, Fish, Eggs*, and whatever is necessary for the life of man; after Dinner their Palm-wine comes in, and what Fish is taken since the morning.

They have never no confusion in their Markets, each Commodity has a peculiar place assigned for it by the Merchant, which is observed with great order; their Tobacco is sold in the leaf, which being dried by the fire, they light it and smoak, their industry as yet not having been great enough to make it up into Rowls.

172 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

There is no such thing amongst them as trusting or credit, no Money no Merchandise there, every one brings his Gold in his hand. If the Commodity be of small price, they take their Gold and poise it upon the end of their finger, adding or subtracting as they think fit; but if considerable, and of great value, they out with their Scales and weigh it.

Their Scales are made of two flat pieces of Copper something broader than our Crown pieces, which they hang by a thread at the end of a short stick, and balancing so exactly, there can be nothing more true. Having no Needle, they make a noose of thread with their thumb and fasten to the middle, in which, instead of weights, they hang a certain red grain they call *Tacons*, each of which grains weighs about two-penny

A Voyage to Guinee. 173

penny weight, with which *Pian Piano*, they will weigh a *Mark of Gold*, yet there are some great Merchants which have Scales like ours, which they have bought lately of us.

All that comes to this Market, (which is kept every day in the week (Sunday excepted) is Tribute free, and pays no duty to the King.

There are others that resemble our Fairs, and fall out not above twice in a year, to which all the whole Countrey repairs, for there is never in any of those Kingdoms two Fairs kept in one day, lest one should be a hindrance and disadvantage to the other. By the report I have had, 'tis to these places they bring the best and finest of their things, and whatever they buy of us, as likewise to the ordinary Markets which are kept farther

174 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

up into the Countrey, but to those Markets which are kept nearer the Sea, there is nothing comes but what is necessary to humane life, which the Peasants bring (like so many Mules) upon their backs, and that but from five or six places: yet so strict are they in their Religion, and do so much postpone the considerations of their advantage and gain, that if any of these Fairs does happen to fall out upon a *Sunday*, it is *ipso facto* put off till the next day.

THEIR



THEIR RELIGION.

*Of their Sundays, Feasts, Devotions,
Gods or Fetiches, of their Sacri-
fices, Priests, and Habits.*

THough amongst these poor people, there is not the least tincture of the true Religion to be seen, yet they observe a Sabbath (which is our *Tuesday*) very strictly: Every man rests that day from his labour, the Peasants bring nothing to the Markets, and no man is permitted to traffick, unless it be those upon the Seaside, who have liberty to go aboard any Vessel in the Road, and to truck and make bargaines as they please. The rest imploy their times wholly at their devotions, and doe observe

176 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

it with much more punctuality
then we doe our Sundays with
us.

They meet altogether in a place,
in the middle of which there is a
great Tree, called the Tree of
their *Fetiche*, of the barke of
which they make the fillets, with
which they bind their little pieces
of gold to their armes, and their
leggs. At the foot of this Tree a
Table is spread, (the feet drest
with severall Crowns and Garlands
made of the boughs of trees) upon
which they set Rice, Millet,
Mays, Fruit, Meat, and Fish, with
Wine, and Oyl of Palmes, to eat
and drink to their *Fetiches*, they
dance, and sing, and jump up and
down all day about this Tree,
making a most obstreperous noise
with Copper Basins, and other
instruments for the purpose.

They wash their faces that
morning

A Voyage to Guinee. 177

morning with particular care, and more exactly then all the weeke after. The first bit of whatever they eat, they throw down upon the ground in honor of their Gods, and at night the Captain or Governour distributes Palme-Wine to all the Inhabitants, the Peasants being obliged to bring it to him that evening.

Ask them about any thing of their faith, and they will look down upon the ground, but never give you an answer; only one of them told us that we had a very good God, that gave us so many fine things: They all of them believe in an other life, but where, whither above or below, they cannot tell. For which reason, least their Father or Mother should be hungry and starve, they put meat and Palme-Wine very often into their graves, to the end

178 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

that if they be thirsty or hungry, they may repair thither, and be relieved.

When they hear it thunder, rain hard, or the wind blow very strong, there is not one of them to be seen in the streets, all hide themselves in their houses, and cry, *the Gods of the Whites are angry*. I ask'd one of them of what colour his God was, and he told me black: The Devil is so dreadful to them, they tremble at his very naming, they say he beats them, and makes them doe ill things for their *Fetiches*, for whom they have an incredible superstition, though they be all of them inanimate, and some of them so nastily villanous, one would not touch them with a paire of tongs.

They every body carry some of them about with them, some are made of the end of horns, fill'd up with

A Voyage to Guinee. 179

with ordure, others of little figures, as the heads of some creature or other, and a hundred such like impertinences, which their Priests sell them at their own price, and pretend they found them under the tree of the *Fetiche*.

They tie this tree about (which is the place where they sacrifice) with little roaps of straw, and after their Ceremonies are over, they take those ropes, and stringing their gold work upon them, they fasten them to their armes and leggs, and then thinke themselves safe against any mischief whatever.

For the preservation of their houses, they have a sort of *Fetiches* which are planted at their doors, and they are no better then our poles, or hooks, we pull down, the boughs withall when we gather our fruit: Of these *Fetiches* their

180 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

their Priests set a great number about a stone, which (by their tradition) is as old as the world, and when they have been there a certain time, the Priests sell them to the people.

If at any time any trouble befall them, they repair immediately to their Priest, for a new *Fetiche* (the old one is to be trusted no longer) who most graciously supplies them for their money, and into the bargain, he gives them a piece of Suet, or Tallow, with two or three Parrets feathers set right up, or else a certain hearb, the King of Fetu's Son-in-law had the head of an Ape for his *Fetiche*.

They doe all of them abstain from some thing or other, in honor of their *Fetiche*, with this opinion, that if ever they eat or drink of that, after they promis'd abstinence (which is usually at their
Mar-

A Voyage to Guinee. 181

Marriage) they shall die upon the spot; for which reason, one eats no Beef, another no Goat, another no Hens, this man drinks no Wine, and the other no Strong-waters, which they observe so exactly, they will sooner dye than be perswaded or forc'd to the contrary.

These *Fetiches* I have spoken of hitherto, are but private *Fetiches*, and belong but to particular men: but they have another sort of *Fetiches* which are tutelary to the whole Countrey, as for example, sometimes such a Mountain, sometimes such a kind of Tree, sometimes such a Stone, sometimes such a sort of Fish, or such a species of Birds, which they look upon and worship as so many Gods. If a *Negro* by accident kills any of those Birds, he is punish'd sufficiently, and if a White, he

182 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

he runs a great hazard of his life. I saw one of these Birds at *Frederisburgh*, a little thing about the bigness of a Wrenn, with a Beak like a Linnet, mark'd with black and white, and the Feathers a kind of light brown: if any of these at any time are seen flying about in the Gardens of a *Moure*, 'tis look'd upon as a good Omen, and he throws it meat immediately.

The Consecrated Trees are ordinarily those about which their Sacrifices are perform'd; they believe whoever cuts such a one down, destroys (without more ado) all the fruit in the Country: and therefore if there be any such Malefactors, they are punish'd with death, as it happen'd to the *Hollanders* at *Moure* in the year 1598, before they had built the Fort of *Nassau*, where 8 or 10
of

A Voyage to Guinee. 183

of them were killed the 8th. of May, for having cut down a Tree dedicated to their *Fetiches*.

The highest Mountains, and such as are most subject to Thunder and Lightning, they imagine are the Residences of their Gods, and therefore they pay great honour and respect to them: at the bottom of them they will lay *Rice, Millet, Mays, Bread, Wine, Oyl,* and other things, that they may eat and drink if they be hungry or dry.

Their Stones (which they fancy to be *Fetiches*) are like our great Land-marks in the Countrey, (or such as are laid to distinguish and determine the bounds or limits of a Countrey Parish) and they believe them as old as the world: about these it is their Priests do set their *Cruches* which they sell afterwards to the people for

184 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

for conservation of their houses, as I mentioned before.

Besides these *Fetiches* aforesaid, if five or six Neighbours build near one another, in any place divided from the rest of the Town, they will have a *Fetiche* to themselves, and will sacrifice and pray to him for their preservation.

Thursday the fourteenth of *April* being at *Frederisbourg*, whilst they were at prayers above, I went down, and at the entrance of a house which stood alone by it self, I observ'd a man and a woman, bleeding of a hen (which they had prick'd on purpose) upon certain leaves which they had plac'd upon the ground, and after it had done bleeding, they cut it into mamocks, threw them down upon the leaves, and then turning their faces upon one another, and kissing their hands, they cry'd,

Me

A Voyage to Guinee. 185

Me Cusa, Me Cusa, Me Cusa,
which is as much as to say, *Make*
me good. I let them alone till their
ceremony was done, and then
ask'd them what they were about,
they told me, that the *Fetiché* of
that quarter had beaten them, and
they by way of attonement, had
given him a hen for his dinner:
As I was looking down upon their
caves, (or an herbe rather which
grows upon the Sea-side) they
desired me not to touch them, and
told me whoever eat of that Pul-
let, in half an hours time, would
be as dead as a herring, but I was
so stout-hearted, I took it up, had it
broyl'd upon the coales, by my
Lacquay, eating some part of it
in their presence, and throwing
the rest to the piggs: the poor
people were amazed, and stood
gaping to see me fall down dead,
or sinke over head and ears into
the

the earth immediately: I ask'd them to see their *Fetiche*, they carryed me into a little Court, to a kind of a Tyle wrapt about with straw, and told me that was the *Fetiche* which had beaten them. Well said I, I'll be reveng'd, and throwing it on the ground, I brake it into a hundred pieces, and planted a Cross in the Room on't. I taught them to signe themselves also, broak all their Cruches about the doore, and having given them each a little cross for their pockets, and bid them when ever the *Fetiche* came to plague them again, that they should signe themselves with the signe of the cross, take that out and kiss it, and they should hear no more of their *Fetiche* ever after; they hear'd me very patiently, and made such relations at home, that a whole Church of them came to me next day

A Voyage to Guinee. 187

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ay desiring to swop a *Fetich* for
Crucifix: We came immediate-
ly to a bargain, and when I be-
gan to examine my *Fetich*, I found
nothing but a piece of putrify'd
earth, nointed over with fuet, and
rease, and oyle of Palmes, with
ve or six Parrot-feathers bolt up-
right in the middle, to which
morning and night they pay'd
their constant devotions.

I perswaded them afterwards to
show me to their *Fetich General*,
which they did: I found it in a
plaine where they made all their
sacrifices; it was nothing but a
stone covered with earth, which
routed immediately, and brake
five hundred of their poles which
they had planted about it; from
hence I went to their Priest, to
see what *Fetiches* he had to sell,
he told me I had one, which was
one of the poles I had brought
along

188 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

along in my hand, and would have had me pay'd him for't: I took him by the elbow, and carry'd him to the *Master Fetiche*, and when he saw he was demolish'd, Lord what a pickle he was in, he roar'd and cry'd out to his Neighbour, and all of them lookt upon it as a miracle that I was not as dead as door-naile in the twinkling of an eye. I told him, Sir for your payment I have set up this Cross, and whosoever touches it (unless upon his knee) is a dead man in a minute; at which words, they run home as fast as they could, yelling and crying out to one another whilst I return'd to the Castle.

They have so great an opinion, & veneration for their Priests, that the whole world is not able to disabuse them: if they have one bit better than other, 'tis kept for them: they are the only people amongst

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A Voyage to Guinee. 189

the *Mores*, that are suffer'd not to
worke, are nourish'd at others
cost, and charef'd all ways they
can thinke of, to the end they
may afford them their prayers.
They sell *Fetiches* (as I have said
before) to the common people,
perswading them, they found them
hanging upon the *Fetiches* Tree,
which they believe so obstinately,
their own eyes are not sufficient
to convince them; for if at any time
they see the contrary, they will
never believe it an illusion, then
imagine their Priests would de-
ceive them: so blind are these poor
people, being led by those who
are blinder then themselves.

The Habit of their Priests re-
sembles a Coat of Armes, and is
made of some coarse linnen, or
serge, about which they have a
garse set with little bones of
boyl'd Pullets, like the Cockle-
shells

190 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

shells worn by the Pilgrims of *S. Michael*; the rest of their bodies is quite naked, they have garters about their leggs, made of the Fibers of their *Fetich* Tree: all people, even to the Kings themselves are ambitious of their friendship that they may intreat their *Fetiches* to be favourable to them, either in their Trade, or any thing else.

For my part, I believe they are made all of them by the Priest, and that they talk and converse with the Devil, who communicates with them, and teaches them which way to cheat the people easily; and that which makes me say it, is this, they alwayes mutter out some words to their *Fetiches* before they deliver them.

A Voyage to Guinee. 191

Of their Superstition, their Swearing upon their Fetiches, their manner of pacifying them, when they think they are angry, and the Burials of the Dead.

THeir Superstition towards their *Fetiches*, is so positive, and dogmatical, nothing in this world is able to convince them. Their chief end in carrying them about them, is to keep them from any ill might befall them, and when any does, they believe the fault is in themselves, and that they have not perform'd their duties towards them.

They dread Swearing by their *Fetiches* above all things, believing it impossible to live an hour after, if they swear false; for which reason, when the good woman goes to the Market, or abroad at any

192 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

any time, the good man takes his *Fetich*, and putting it into a cup of drink made with Palme-wine, he gives it her, and makes her swear to be faithfull to him in his absence, & swears her again (whether she has or not) when she returns.

When we were before *Asbini* there was one called *Attire*, who complain'd that he was robb'd of a Mark of Gold in our ship: Monsieur *Wantesk* took a crust of bread and bid him swear by his *Fetich* and then (eating that) wish that the Devil might carry him away in an hours time, if it were not true but his Conscience being too tender, he refus'd it, and made himself so ridiculous amongst his Brethren, he never durst appear in our ship afterwards.

The eight and twentieth of April, being with the *Danish* General about Supper time, the King of

Fetu

A Voyage to Guinee. 193

Fetu's Son-in-law (called *Fanque Senece*) arriv'd, the General suspected he had nimm'd away a Ring from him, but his Excellence protested the contrary, offering to wear, and to swallow his *Fetich* upon the premises. I had a great mind (upon the tydings) to be present at the Ceremony; I went on, and found a Faggot of Thorns in a Basket which a Slave carry'd under his Arm, cover'd over with Skin, I made bold to uncover it, and in the middle of the Faggot, I saw a piece of Suet and Wax, with Parrots Feathers, little burnt Bones of Pullets, Plumes of the Bird which was *Fetichissio* of that Countrey, and several other nastie things with them. One of their Priests was present, who told him he had made it as strong as was possible, and that if he ly'd, he could not out-live it a
I quarter

194 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

quarter of an hour; for all that, he took a piece of bread, and a glass of Wine, and was falling to work, but the General stopt him, and would not suffer him to drink it. I put my hand to this Fetiche, the Priest saw me, started, and bid me have a care, *If I took it up, I was a dead man.* I lifted it out of the basket for all that, he stepped back, and cry'd out to me, if you turne, or move it, the fire will fall down from Heaven, and consume you: I took it and twirld it three times on the right hand, and as many on the left: and then I threw it dash against the ground, leaping upon it, and breaking it into a thousand pieces. They said I would dye in the morning, and were very much amazed to find me a live afterwards. But they collected, and told me, *I was not dead, because I did not believe:*

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A Voyage to Guinee. 195

answered, *They were fools, not to*
be as great Infidels as I? They re-
plied, *It was impossible, their Fe-*
tiches would not suffer them. Quoth
Who is this *Fetich*: They told
me, *It was a great black Dogg,*
that appear'd very frequently at
the foot of a great Tree. I ask'd
them, *If they had seen him?* they
told me, *No*, but their Priests,
and he, were very great, conferr'd
votes often, and they gave them
a relation of their discourse.

Besides the ways of appeasing
their *Fetiches*, which I have men-
tioned before, they have other
whimsies as memorable: If they
have not so good fortune a fishing,
they say they use to have, they imagine
their *Fetich* is offended, and has
given them away. If their Trade
be but dull, they are of the same
opinion, believe them to be the
cause, and fall to their devotions
immediately.

196 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

If a poor fisherman goes out takes little, and returns after all his patience and paines, not much richer then he went, he conclude his *Fetich* is disgruntled, repair presently to his Priest, present him with a token of his Love, and with tears in his eyes, begs of him that he would set them to right again; after which he marches with his Wife and Children (a great number) to the Sea-side, with great branches of their *Fetich* Tree about their necks, which after certain ceremonies they throw into the Sea, with Rice, Millet, and Mays, crying out thousand times, *Me cusa, Me cusa*.

If the King observes that Gold comes not down so plentifully as formerly, or that his Traffick, and duties decrease, to work he goes

A Voyage to Guinee. 197

stantly with his *Fetiche*, he
prayers, he sacrifices, he treats,
breading of meat, and drink,
bout the Mountains and Trees
that are consecrated to him, which
the Minister of *Frederisbourg* told
he he had many times seen.

Having seiz'd upon two *Mores*
on *Holy-Thursday*, to secure some
debts we had owing us upon the
more. On *Friday* morning we ob-
served one of them to wash his
face more then ordinary, to mut-
ter out some words to himself, and
to take water, and throw it be-
hind him: we ask'd him for what
reason he did so, and he told us,
it was to implore the *Fetiche* for
raine, that Gold might be washed
down from the Mountains, and
the Merchants inabled by that to
set them at liberty.

After they have sowne their
Corne (of the manner of which

198 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

I shall give a relation by and by) that night they burn all the thorns they can find in the field, and then skipping, and dancing, and singing, whatever they have more then ordinarily precious, they throw it (with Palme-Wine) into the fire, conceiving thereby to render their *Fetich* more favorable in their Harvest: By which we may see the deplorable blindness of those poor Creatures, and be excited to give God thanks, who has illuminated us with the rayes of the Gospel.

The General of *Frederisbourg*, having notice that there was one of them dead in the Castle, gave me advertisement immediately that I might be present at the funeral ceremonies, a thing which the *Mores* will never permit, but by constraint.

When any one dyes amongst them,

A Voyage to Guinee. 199

them, they put the body into a Coffin made of Ofiers, the barke of Trees, or of Rushes, which indeed is no more than a panier, the women, the relations, friends and neighbours that are there, run up and down the house, crying, and lamenting, and interrogating the dead person why he would leave them.

If it be a woman that dyes, her daughter or some other woman, (for the men are never called to their funerals) goes from house to house complaining and making her moan, and with the gold she finds about her, or in the house, buys an Ox or a Sheep, which she gives to the Priest, to pray to the *Fetiche* of the dead person, to conduct her into a place of repose: the Priest orders this Ox, or Mutton, to be killed, and then sprinkling the blood about in

200 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

honour to her *Fetiche*, he begs of it, that it would not interrupt her in her passage to the other world, and that it would pardon whatever she had done amiss. Those who are present being put by him into a ring, in a corner of the Chamber, he places himself in the midst, and drest very sprucely with *Rasade*, Corail, or plates of Gold, sets a great quantity of Pease, Beans, Rice, Mays, and Oyle of Palmes about them, and then sprinkles them with the blood of a Pullet, which is killed, and afterwards makes a kind of a necklace of certain hearbs, which he hangs about his neck, whilst the good women cut the Pullet into morsells, and present them before the *Fetiche*. After this the Priest having muttered out some prayers to himself, he takes water, or Palme-Wine in his mouth, and spirts it upon the

A Voyage to Guinee. 201

he, most antient of the *Fetiches*, from which he takes a proportion of uet, and grease, and mingling it with the leaves of his coller, and other things, he stamps and bruises them altogether with his feet, till they be brought to a consistence, then making them up into a great mass, he separates again into several little pieces, which being wrapt up in the rind of a consecrated tree, he distributes to the whole company, reserving a part to be buried with the corps, to make her journey more prosperous into the other world, and these *Fetiches* are lookt upon as the most propitious of all.

This Ceremony being over, the body is expos'd about half a day, with the head bound about, and the arms extended, after which the women carry it to the place of its Sepulture (it being their Province

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202 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

vince to bury the dead) the men never stirring in that case, unless the burial be to be in some other Village, which is frequent by reason of a custome they have of burying every body in the Town they were born, and then they attend the Corps with their weapons in their hands; but this person I saw being buried hard by, I had the opportunity of being a Spectator of the whole Ceremony.

The Corps being brought to the place of its Burial, the men which inhabited there, digg'd a hole of about four or five foot deep, and put it in, but so, as the Earth came not near it, then turning about the Grave, they bid him adieu, with great noise and ejulation: that Wife which he had most kindness for, threw his *Fetiches* into the hole, and at last laid

laid a good part of his household-stuff (as his Kettles and Cloaths) by his side, and his Arms a top on him: if he loved any thing more than ordinary, as Palme-wine, or any thing else, they plac'd it by him, with Rice, Millet, Mays, and whatever they thought necessary for the life of man, that he might want nothing whither he was a going. Over his Grave, they set up a little Shedd to keep it from the weather, which continues there till it be rotten, without being to touch'd by any one. He which makes the Grave, and buries the dead bodie, has the libertie to take his choice of such things which they put into the Grave with the Corps, and it is look'd upon as a due, if he be not paid otherwise for his pains.

If a woman dies in Travail, and the Child dies also, they are buried

204 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

ried together, and the Infant in the Arms of the Mother.

These Ceremonies being finished, they return weeping and lamenting to their houses, where both men and women doe wash themselves forthwith, after which they eat the Beef or the Mutton which was bought, passing the rest of the day in feasting, and jollity, only every year they carry meat and drink, and set it at his grave, least he should be hungry or thirsty in the other world.

Of their old Men, their Slaves, their Lane, their Servants, the Diseases they are usually subject to, with their Cures, and the way to prevent them.

THough there is but little love lost amongst them, and the men, and the women (unless it be

be their first Wives) quit one another as they please, yet they are troubled and concern'd when it happens. So great an aversion have these people against idleness, that amongst them the aged men and women are not allow'd it, but are constrained to get their livelyhood by such employments as their age and infirmities will bear, some of them being set on worke either to blow the bellows in some forge, to supervise the business of the house, or some such trifling affaire which requires not much paines: the lame, and such as by any other means are rendred incapable of working, are forced to the wars, or if unable for that, they are sent to sell and barter for their Commodities at the Market, or else assist at the making of their oyle of Palme, make Mattresses, or what else their strength will admit.

They

They have not many Slaves upon this Coast, it not being permitted to any but the Nobles, to Trade in that nature, by which means they are not allow'd to entertain any but for their necessary service in their families or fields.

These Slaves are commonly such poor miserable Creatures, as having not where with all to maintain, or keep themselves alive, are glad to sell themselves to the rich Merchants of that Country (that are all Noble-men) who to know them from others, doe give them always a particular marke of their own, if they endeavour to escape, for the first time they cut off one eare, and for the second the other, if they attempt it a third time and be taken, they either sell them away, or cut off their heads, as they please. The children of these poor people are

Slaves

A Voyage to Guinea. 207

Slaves as well as the Parents, and obliged to doe whatever they are commanded, as watring their fish, spinning *Rafade*, &c.

The King has several sort of Slaves, some like these I have mentioned; others which are fortified to him for want of paying their Fines, or other penalties imposed for some fault they have committed: and both of them sent commonly to be sold at the place set apart for the Trucking of Slaves.

The Kings Slaves are distinguishable from other men, only by this that they have no hatts, but go always naked with their heads. The Inhabitants will not be called *Mores* (which is an appellation they say belongs more properly to their Slaves) but *Pretos* which is as much as *Negroes*. They generally use their Slaves very well, seldome or never giving them any correction. Though

Though they have not so many diseases amongst them, as we, yet they are not without their share, and those as troublesome as ours: the most frequent are the *Neapolitan* disease, pains in the head, burning Feavers, (which for the most part are occasion'd by their women) the Chollick, and worms which grow betwixt the flesh and the skin, to which strangers also being subject, I shall speak a word or two anon.

For the *Neapolitan* disease (which is not infamous amongst them) they use only *Salseparilla*, which they boyl in a Skillet to such a height, and then streining it, they use it as a diet-drink, and (as they say themselves) with very great success.

Their pains in their head, they cure by fomentations made of certain hearbs which they lay upon
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the Patients face, and it takes the pain away immediately. Sometimes they raise little blisters upon it, which then applying to them a certain kind of Earth they have amongst them, it asswages and cures them also.

The Chollick, and Wind in the Stomach, is not over frequent amongst the Natives, but all Strangers are much subject to them, till they be accustomed to the Air of that Countrey.

To prevent and fortifie ones self against them, it is good to bind about the Stomach very hard, to keep ones self warm in the night with a Waistcoat, or some other thing, and if notwithstanding all this, it be not prevented, it is not amiss to take four or five drops of balm of Sulphur in a little Strong-water, cover ones self well, and sweat, the next day let blood,

210 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

blood, then purge two days after, and 'tis odds but he will be well. 'Tis very dangerous sleeping upon the ground, in three dayes many times they are dead of an incurable cold.

Sometimes they bath them with Mallows, Marsh-Mallows, Pelitory of the Wall, Powder of Cassia, each half an ounce, then they boyl it upon the fire to a certain degree, and put ten or twelve drops of Oyl of Aniseeds amongst it, which makes it soveraign; but the best way of all is to keep the Stomach warm, and have a great care of sleeping upon the ground.

As to the worms which grow betwixt the skin and the flesh, Foreigners are as much subject to them, as they: they breed over all the body, but principally in the thighs, leggs, and most fleshy parts. Sometimes they have them two years

A Voyage to Guinee. 211

years together, and never perceive it till about a fortnight before they come out. By the report of those who have had them, there is no torment like them, and it exceeds the most violent pain in the teeth.

There has been great inquisition into the cause of it, some attribute it to their Palme-wine, others to the Fish which is eaten upon that Coast, others to their Water, every one arguing according to his fancy, but all of them wide of the Mark; for those *Mores* who live but forty leagues up higher into the Countrey, know nothing of it at all, nor are in any danger of the Evening dew.

The most probable cause is the dew which falls in the Evening upon the Coast, occasioned by the Breezes from the Sea, which being very cold, the *Mores* do constantlie

212 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

stantlie make fires at their feet, when they go to sleep, and indeed nothing is of more importance to ones health, than to keep off the chilness of that Air, and to preserve ones self as warm as one can. The ill water they drink, together with the nastiness of their diet, may add something, but 'tis the nipping Winds and Rains which fall upon the Coast, and makes those parts so subject to worms: in *June, July, and August*, (which are the most rainy months amongst them) experience tells us, those worms are most apt to engender. In short, every drop of their Rain is bigger than a large Pea: if in a shower of that nature, one be wet never so little, and lets his clothes dry upon his back, besides that in three days his clothes shall be rotten, if he has no worms, he shall be sure of a distemper

temper that will be very dangerous.

We may affirme therefore 'tis the raine, as well as the dew, which produces these worms, how, or, which way, I leave to the Philosopher, and Phisitian to resolve; but this I am suer, having many times put out a bitt of flesh in the raine, or in the evening dew, I found as soon as the beams of the Sun glanc'd but upon it, it turn'd all into Worms, which experiment I made very often, and am convinc'd by it, that they come but those two wayes, either by the raine or the dew. Of those Worms which grow in the body, there are two sorts, one lesser, the other greater, and some of them as slender as a haire; the least are half a foot long, the larger a foot, and some there are of an elle, but very rarely.

When

214 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

When you are once plagued with them, there is nothing to be done till they are out, which is evident by the humours they raise in the flesh, and the swelling of the part where they lye. There is nothing like keeping ones bed, and opening the corner of the skin gently with a knife to give them free passage, if they perceive them advancing, they may hasten their journey, and pull them out by little and little, if they find any stop or reluctance in the Worm, they must let them alone (least they break them) and tye a haire or piece of silk about them, to keep them from going back: sometimes several of them will come out at one hole, but they must have patience, for their motion is but slow: above all things they must have a care of breaking them, for they are of so venemous a quality, there
is

A Voyage to Guinee. 215

is no way to preserve the person against its virulence, but by cutting off the part. When they are out, they usually rub the place with butter and salt, and wash it with sea-water, which in that case is overaigh.

Their best way to secure themselves against them, is to put fil-lust into their breeches & shooes to keep their feet dry, and if at any time they be wet, to change their clothes and their drawers immediately, by no means to sleep upon the ground, to have a care of the *Seraine* or evenings dew, to bind themselves up close, and keep their stomacks warm, to abstain from Women, to use confection of *Hyacinth*, *Alkermes*, or *Clarie*, to keep ones self clean, avoide the *rairie* (which the *Mores* are as feard of as the plague, shutting up themselves as soon as it begins but
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to mizzle ; if one be wett, to dry his cloths, and by these observations they may be probably prevented. I saw a person of quality who had been their seventeen years, who told me he had never been troubled with them but the first year, and that was for want of these cautions. But to continue these stories of death and diseases, is but to make the reader *chagrin* and melancholy; it is time now I should to something of more pleasure and divertisement.

Of their Dances, and Feasts, both private and solemne.

THe Inhabitants of the Coasts of *Africk*, are great lovers of Musick, and songs, but especially of dancing, in which they spend two or three hours every evening before they go to bed: to
this

A Voyage to Guinee. 217

For this purpose the men and women
both, dress themselves as fine as
they can, putting on their brace-
lets of Gold, and Ivory, and trim-
ming up their hair; the men car-
ry little fanns in their hands, made
of the tayls of Elephants, or
Horses, (like the beasom of sea-
thers wherewith pictures are du-
ted, saving that these are gilt at
both ends) and meet all at a place
about Sun-set; Being come to-
gether, those who make the Mu-
ick, draw into a corner by them-
selves, their Instruments are a kind
of Drum, or Tabor, made of the
trunk of a tree, hollowed: A
Cane with several holes in it, like
a flute, a *Tambour de Basque*, and
an instrument something near our
Guitars, with six strings; all
which playing together, make
no contemptible harmonie. As
soon as they strike up, the men

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and

and women divide immediately, and putting themselves (two and two) directly against one another, they begin their dance, marching up to one another, and then recoiling in good measure, clacking their fingers, as they pass nodding their heads, whispering certain words into one anothers ears, tossing about their fanns, with a thousand postures and gesticulations, and in this manner spending the evenings till they go to bed. This dance is not much unlike one of our *Filoux* in *France*; some of their women and maids will take a Hoop and throw it upon the ground, then skip, and dance about it, and at last take it up with their toes. In short, dancing is in so great request amongst them, they have Schools on purpose to teach them.

Besides Sundays, they have par-

ticula

A Voyage to Guinee. 219

cular Festivals, and particular
ances belonging to them; for the
ayes which are observed by their
ings, I shall speak of in a chapter
by themselves.

On the 26 of *April* being at
Frederisbourg, I saw one of these
feasts, which are commonly in-
stituted in memory of some advan-
ge befalln the State: This that
was at, was celebrated by the
ling of *Fetu's* Son-in-Law, who
had gain'd a great battel against
the King of *Acanis*, and the Lord
Abrambou, on the same day
the year before, in which ingage-
ment as the General of *Frederis-*
bourg told me, there were slain
both sides above 5000 men.
The Festival began at *Cape-Corse*,
where the Son-in-Law lived, who
made a great Feast, distributed
largely to all that were there, who
troubled themselves that day with

220 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

nought but their sports, and a night came to finish their ceremony at the Castle of *Fredericbourg*; we were just setting down to the Table, when on a sudden we heard a great noise of shouting and acclamations, and immediately their Drums and their Trumpets strike up. Their Trumpets are of Elephants teeth made hollow: We perceived presently it was the Kings Son-in-Law, with his Drum before him, fifteen or twenty Trumpets, about a dozen of his Wives, and about 60 Slaves after him, two of which attended him with great Bucklers, carryed on purpose to cover him, and two others with his Darts, his Bow and his Arrows. The Women were drest in Damask and Taffeties, which they wrapt about them from their breasts, to the mid-legg, wearing several *Fetich*

up

A Voyage to Guinee. 221

upon their heads, several little plates of gold in bracelets, about their wrists and ankles, or else of *asade* or Ivory, their hair very well drest, according to the mode of that Countrey: the Kings Son-in-Law had a piece of blew Taffety about his waist, whose two ends were drawn betwixt his leggs, & trail'd almost upon the ground. Before him he had a little faulshion carryed, he had a Cap trim'd with pieces of the skulls of such persons as he had killed, and covered all over with plumes of feathers: on his armes and his leggs he had several little pieces of gold excellently well wrought, and two little fanns in his hands, made of horse hair; When they were receiv'd into the Court, after a hundred showts and acclamations, the men put themselves on one side, the women on the other, and

222 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

the Slaves, Trumpets, and Drums, behind him, who sounded as they pass'd, and made all the noise and clamour was possible; having separated themselves, they began their approaching and retiring with great exactness, turning themselves this way and that way about half a quarter of an hour: after this he gave his two fanns to one of his Slaves, and taking his dart in his hand, he pretended to dart it at the women, who were doing the same thing on their side, but the Slaves got about him, and cover'd him quite with their bucklers: this having lasted a pritty while, on a sudden he claps his hand upon his sword, and run a tilt at the women, who did the same to him with sticks they had in their hands for that purpose, and then mingling themselves pell-mell with the Slaves (who had swords also in their

A Voyage to Guinee. 223

their hands, and made as if they
struck them as hard as they could)
they gave a great yell, divided
again, and so made an end of their
ceremony.

The General treated them very
kindly with Strong-waters and
other things, and whisper'd to
me, that their manner of fighting
was at that rate; in short, this Son-
in-Law of his Majesty was not
quit of this fopperie at less charge
then 500 Marks of Gold, from
thence he went to the Governour
of the *Mores* in *Frederisbourg*, to
pass that night with him, and as
we heard, he stay'd very graciously
with him till the next day at
noon.

Of their Exercises, their Workmen, their Trades, their Merchandises, their Fishing, which way it is used, and the Duty they pay to their King.

AS they have several Trades and employments amongst them, so are they very constantly employ'd, especially if there be no Ships upon their Coasts to divert them. They have Goldsmiths which work very curiously, they have Carpenters that make their *Canoes*, they have people that Fish, they have others that cutt down their wood, the women in the mean time keeping their Markets, and selling their Commodities to Merchants which come higher out of the Countrey.

Those who come aboard to negotiate with us, are commonly
Off-

Officers, or Captains of some Town, who are all of them Merchants: their manner of coming aboard us, is in a little *Canoe*, very neatly made, rowed by two *Mores*, the Merchant in the middle upon a little chair, with his sword lying by him.

Being of several places, they have a different way of Trading, those who live farther up the Countrey, and are neither acquainted with the language, nor manner of Commerce, which is practis'd by the Whites, are constrain'd to make use of a sort of Brokers to negotiate for them, and doe usually give them good recompence for their paines; this is an advantage accrews particularly to such as live near the Sea-side, & (so generally are they devoted to their profit) the greatest Merchants amongst them will not refuse the

226 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

employment, if there be the least prospect and expectation of gain.

Most commonly, it is those who live upon the Coasts, or within ten leagues distance of the Sea, that buy up the Commodities which are brought in by such Ships as come into their Roads, and sell them afterwards when the Ships are gone, to the Inlanders, seldome for less profit then six *per Cent.*

Having been deceived sometimes formerly, they are now grown so subtil and wary, there is no cheating them any more; it is our business now rather to be upon our guards least they be too cunning for us. They have so great judgement, and insight into Merchandise, they will distinguish whither a piece of Saye be dyed at *Leyden* or *Harlem*.

When their bargains are made,
and

A Voyage to Guinee. 227

and their business done, they fall a begging and bawling for some present or other (which they call *Dache*) and will never be satisfied without it. The *Hollanders* brought up this Custom at first, to cajole, and worke them off from the *Portugais*: But what they did voluntarily then, is become now such a Custom, that some of the *Mores* are so confident, as to demand what present they shall have, before they will admit any proposition of Traffick.

They have one pritty odde kind of superstition amongst them, if a Merchant sneezes as he comes out of his house, and turns his head by accident, towards the right hand, (which they call *Eninfañ*) they believe they shall run a great hazard of loosing their goods that day. If he turns it to the left (which they call *Abnicon*) though they

228 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

they were sure to gain the profits of a Kingdom, they would not stir out that day from their houses.

When they return from our Ships, they have alwayes store of boys, and young fellows attending upon the shore, to carry the Commodities they have bought to their houses, for which the Merchant gives them some little pieces of gold as a reward. Those who live higher up the Countrey, have all their Commodities brought down upon the backs of their Slaves, making no use of horse, or any other Creature in that business, which is no small inconvenience to a Merchant that comes a hundred leagues to us cross the Countrey, and forces them to travel with their Arms.

Fishing being their principal imployment, every morning there are twenty or thirty *Canoes* to be
seen

seen sailing out of their harbours, & dividing themselves instantly into all quarters when they come out to Sea. In each of them they have commonly two men, one to fish, and the other to manage the *Canoe*, and by them they have their Swords and their Victuals. Their *Canoes* are very neat and beautiful, painted and adorned with all possible care; they fasten *Fetiches* to them, to preserve them from storms and disasters, and when they have done fishing, they draw them up under a place on purpose to keep them dry. They are so light, two men will carry one of them as they please.

In this manner they go a fishing every morning, yet not so much by design, as by natural impulse, the wind from the hills forcing them as it were to Sea, and altering at night, and blowing hard upon the shore

230 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

shore, they are brought home again by the same necessity and violence: and this they do constantly every day but *Sunday*, never failing, when the weather will endure it.

The most general way of fishing, is with little hooks, of which they fasten twenty (sometimes) to one line; others make use of lines with a kind of slipping nooses, but this is as rarely at Sea, as it is ordinary in their Rivers, and Lakes within Land. They are much delighted with fishing in the night, which they do by the light of Torches greas'd over with Oyl of Palme, or Rosen, hooking the fish up as they come near them. Others go up to the bellies into the Sea, with a lighted Torch in one hand, and a Nett in the other, which they throw over them with great dexterity; and from

A Voyage to Guinee. 231

from hence we may collect how industrious they are, neglecting no time, nor labour, to get themselves a livelyhood. At their return, they are attended by several boys, who are alwayes waiting in the harbour to help them home with their fish, and to make up their Lines and their Netts for them, for which pains, they usually gratifie them with some little present of fish.

But the Fisherman and Merchant are no sooner return'd, but the Receiver of the Office (in which the Duties and Customs are paid, for the King in whose Dominion that Port is) stands ready alwayes to receive them, and to carry with him a full third of whatever they bring on shore) to bring the Merchant to a higher composition, for there being no fixt prices set, it is the Merchants
business

232 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

business to get off as cheap, and the Receivers to hoyft him as high as he can : besides these duties, the foreign Merchants which are not of that Kingdom, are oblig'd sometimes to give a Mark of gold more for a free passage thorow the territories of the neighbouring Princes.

But those who live upon the Sea side, are exempted from any tribute in this nature, provided the worth of their Merchandise exceeds not two ounces of gold at one time, if it does, they pay as other people.

The duty upon their fish is paid punctually to the Receiver every day, who as punctually sends it every day to the King; not one Fisherman daring under a great penalty to sell one morsell till it be paid, this tribute being designed to the sustenance of his
Royal

A Voyage to Guinee. 233

Royal Family; for which reason, whatever fish is taken, is brought immediately to the Office, where the Receiver has a great measure about the bigness of a Peck, which he fills, and delivers frankly to the Fisherman; that done, he measures the rest, and reserves a fifth part for the King, which is sent away presently by the Slaves, for the use of the house. These Receivers are for the most part, the Sons, Brothers, or near Relations of their Kings.

of

234 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

*Of the Kings of those Countreys,
their Courts, Authority, and
manner of living with their
Courtiers, of their Wives and
Children, of the Succession of
their Kingdoms, their Revenues,
Feasts, Deaths, Burials, and
Elections of another King.*

THe Kings being the chief
heads of so many people, I
ought in justice to have given them
the preceedence, and have spoken
of them in the first Chapter; but ha-
ving never seen them my self, and
what I write is but from the re-
port of such as have lived there six
or seven year, I have thought it
best to put this, and the three sub-
sequent Chapters by themselves,
having been an eye-witness of
what I have writ before, and what
I shall write hereafter of the Fruits
and

A Voyage to Guinee. 235

and productions of that Country: But these Chapters I took out of the Memoires of the General, and Minister of *Frederisbourg*, who are in the Kingdom of *Fetu*: and as their manners and customs all along these Coasts are every where the same, speaking of one, I shall give sufficient prospect, and information of them all.

The King of *Fetu* as they represented him to me, is no unhandsome man, he is a great lover of the Whites, and has exprest it upon several occasions; he is about five and forty or fifty years old, Majestick, requires honour, and respect, rich, and very liberal, he has come many times to visit the Governour of *Frederisbourg*, and made him several presents: Liberality is very ordinary in these parts, and used, to inveigle the people, and oblige them

236 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

them to parties: He keeps a great Court, passing away the time in drinking and laughing in a great Hall in the middle of his Palace; about Sun-sett, he sets himself down at the Gate, drest very fine with his bracelets and necklaces of Gold, and clad in the richest habits can be bought for money; in this manner, if he be at peace, he passes away his time with his Ladies, whose principal business is to wash and keep him neat against night, at which time he has dancing constantly and balls.

His subjects have all of them a great veneration for him, and are in much awe and apprehension of his displeasure, by reason that whoever amongst them has but once disobey'd their King, he is *ipso facto* by the Laws of that Kingdom, made incapable of any publicke office. His authority is so
absolute

A Voyage to Guinee. 237

absolute, he does what he pleases himself, and no body dares to controul him.

He has always a great number of Slaves and Soldiers guarding his Palace, which is very large, and neat, and incomparably much handsomer then a house he has near the Sea-side: it consists of above two hundred chambers, & is built in the midst of a Town, with large Courts round about it; when he goes abroad he is always attended and carryed upon the shoulders of his Slaves, all people endeavouring to please him wherever he comes.

To gaine the affections of his Courtiers, and the Grandees of his Countrey, above all things it is necessary he be Noble, for they hate avarice, and look upon it as ignominious in a great person, on whom all people doe depend,

to

238 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

to be too parsimoniously intent upon hoording up gold; Yet this liberality that is look'd for, consists only in treatings and banquets, which he makes very often for them, and if the Whites at any time make him a present, he distributs it amongst them, if it be of Strong-waters, he drinks it merrily amongst them, preferring their company, in that case, to his Wives and Children, to whom notwithstanding he allows a proportion.

He has as many Wives as he pleases, who are all disposed into several appartements, with whom he dines or sups sometimes as he thinks good, but very seldome, when they go abroad, they are carryed likewise on the shoulders of their Slaves: they are abundantly prond, and imploy their whole time in diverting and indulging the King; some of them
are

A Voyage to Guinee. 239

are admitted into his company after dinner in the great Hall, and are very happy if they may but wash and dress him in the morning, they having servants enough to dispatch what else is to be done in the house: when they have spruc'd him up, they fall to work upon themselves, combing, and curling their haire in several postures; their cloaths are very rich always, and loaden sometimes with such abundance of Gold, it is a wonder which way they can bear them.

Whilst their Father lives, their Children are brought up at the charge of the publick: when they go abroad out of the Palace, they are carryed by their Slaves likewise, and have always their Trumpets, and one Drum: by which formalities they are distinguish'd from other people, and as they pass,

240 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

pass, receive great honour and respect.

The succession of the Kingdome goes not to the Children, as it does in *Europe*, but devolves upon him that is next of Kin to his Majesty, that the Crown may be sure never to go out of the Royal Family: for this reason the Kings Children make hay whilst the Sun shines, and lay up what they can whilst their Father is alive: they work and take pains to as well as the rest, having no other advantage but exemption from tribute, living alwayes with their Father; whilst he lives himself, they have opportunity of getting and laying up against an evil day. If they marry, the Father gives them only the quality of Nobles, not but he would willingly do more, but dares not: the greatest priviledge they have, is to keep Slaves, but the

The King disposes of all as he pleases. The principal Offices of the Kingdome, are reserv'd for them, as well as the chief Commands in the Armies in times of war: in time of peace they are sent frequently as hostages to other Princes, to secure their Leagues, and to inform themselves of their manner of Government: If they be brave men, and generous, they are respected when their Father is march'd off, but if covetous and base, on the contrary they are abandon'd by their relations, and contemptible to every body else; they will oftentimes complaine that their Father durst not doe any thing indirectly to enrich them, that they are poor, and indigent, and yet have vast treasures conceal'd.

The Revenue of the King consists in Fruit, Fish, Wine, Oyle of
L Palme,

242 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Palme, Millet, Rice, Mays, Flesh, and whatever else is necessary to the life of man; all which are brought in dayly to his Palace, that he may have no cares upon him, nor no room left for any thing but diversion.

The Revenue of the Estate arises from the Customs and Fines which are adjudg'd to him in Civil and Criminal cases, which the Receivers deliver every three Months to his Treasurer, who makes the whole disbursement both for matters of State, for the expence of his Court, for the payment of the Souldiers in time of war, for his privy purse, buys all the Cloths for the King, his Wives and his Children, upon which score, he never stirs from him, accompanies him where-ever he goes, and has an appartement in his Palace; this Office of Treasurer

furer

surer, is the best Office in the Kingdom, and the Treasurer is in more repute amongst all people, then any child of the Kings.

Besides *Sundays* (which the King passes ordinarily after his devotions are ended amongst his Wives & his Children) he observes several Festival dayes, in which he buys up all the Palme-Wine, and Fowle the Peasants bring that day, and regals the Treasurer, his Courtiers, and Nobles of the Countrey, in the company of his Wives and his Children.

The first and chief Feast which he observes, is on the day of his Coronation annually, which they call the Feast of *Fetiches*: on that day he invites not only all his Nobles, but his neighbouring Princes, and whatever Whites are upon his Coasts, who send him presents at that time, and are pre-

244 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

sent themselves if they have any designs upon his friendship: If they come upon the invitation, he receives them very well, feasting them for three dayes together, and entertaining them with *Balls* and dances, and whatever may contribute to their recreations, to which they doe wholly devote themselves; after they have past their devotions, (which are finish'd to their *Fetiches* usually in a morning) and after they have left them meat and drinke at the foot of some Mountain or Tree, to refresh themselves if they happen to be hungry.

The other Feasts which they observe, are ordinarily in memory of some eminent accident for the honour, or advantage of the State, as upon some memorable victory, or so, in which cases the *Europeans* are commonly invited, and

must keep with in Co Song of the but e their sorrow dole crye Cere posea meat serve were U two and when pleat know rved him

A Voyage to Guinee. 245

must come too, if they mean to keep up a good correspondence with them. These Festivals consist in Collations, Banquets, Dances, & Songs, by all which the liberality of that Prince is very conspicuous, but especially by his Feasts. When their King dyes, they express their sorrow by their complaints, their dolefull Songs, and horrible outcries; after the aforementioned Ceremonies are over, he is exposed for some dayes, and in the mean time, his meat and drinke served up to him, as duely as he were a live.

When his body begins to smell, two or four of his Slaves take him, and carry him into the Woods, where they bury him as they please, no person yet having ever known where their King was buried: if any of their Wives follow him, the Slaves kill them, and

246 *A Voyage to Guineæ.*

bury them together, throwing in their *Fetiches* after them, and then his Armes, Sword, Darts, Bows and Arrows, Cloths, Household-stuffe, and whatever he delighted in when he was alive: by his side they place good store of Palme-Wine, Rice and such other necessary sustenance, and when they have done, they present themselves very demeurly before the Palace to be killed, believing they shall be cocksure of the best places about their King in the other world.

Whilst the Slaves are imploy'd in the interrement of the King, the Inhabitants of the Town, run up and down like mad, cutting the throats of man, woman, child, and slaves, to make his equipage as they call it, and attend his Majesty into the other world, in so much, that if he be a great Prince, they

A Voyage to Guinee. 247

they kill four or five hundred persons sometimes at the day of his funeral. If he loved any place better then ordinary, they set up a Tombe for him there, where his Successor commands all things necessary to be plac'd once every year, lest he should want any thing in the world where he is gone.

When their Funerals are over, the next Kinsman is advanced to the Throne, and then conducted with great acclamation to his Palace (which is lock'd up and a Guard set upon it from the death of the former) their next business is to give him possession of all the Treasure his Predecessor had scrap'd up, whose children cannot pretend to any part of it, or of any thing else, unless it be something their Father was possess'd of before his advancement to the Crown.

248 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

But this is true, the new King gives something considerable always to the Children, and takes care of his Wives, who are matches for the best Noble-men in the Countrey. Yet their condition sometimes is so miserable, that if they have not been good husbands, and lay'd up something for themselves, they become so abject and contemptible, they are forc'd to make themselves Slaves for subsistence, and to live in perpetual infamy, to avoid dying with hunger.

This done, the new King makes a Banquet for all comers, and a Feast, which continues four or five dayes, during which time he treats all people, the Whites, the Kings his neighbours, and his Nobles, who all of them send him their presents. He takes new *Fetiches* that day, and prays to them
after.

A Voyage to Guinee. 249

wards, renewing this Feast every year, as I have said before.

Sometimes he changes his Officers, and puts in his relations, and friends, but 'tis but seldome, for if they be old that were in before, he lets them dye in their places, not out of any affection to them, but to oblige and captivate the people by such examples of bounty, to whom he gives great largesses that day likewise, and then calling his Wives and his Children to Court, they begin to take State upon them, to leave off beating the Hoof, and to be carryed in great Pompe upon the shoulders of their Slaves.

Of their Nobles, the manner of their making of War, the grounds upon which they doe usually make it, their Armes: of their Cessations and Peace.

SO much are the *Mores* in love with the title of Nobles, they will not baulk any thing can possibly advance them to it, of which there are several sorts amongst them notwithstanding: This honour is acquired two ways, either by some great and honorable Exploit for the benefit of the State, or else by his money: for if a common *More* finds himself rich enough; he must be Innobled immediately, though it drains him never so dry.

The day he is Innobled he invites all his friends, and all the Nobility of the Countrey that
are

are then in the Town. In the presence of the King and his Lieutenant, his Slaves take him up upon their backs, carrying him a pick-pack round about the City; the good women dancing, and singing, and jumping before him all day till Supper comes up and stops their recreations. This Feast holds three days, at the end of which he gives an Oxe to the poor, and a proportion of Palm-wine. He takes new *Fetiches* too that day, and observes it annually with his kindred and friends. 'Tis reported also, that the Nobility have a certain day in which they all meet and feast every year amongst themselves.

The Priviledges which they enjoy above other people are these, they can Trade in every place as they please, they can sell and buy slaves, they may have their drums
and

and their trumpets, and make them play as they think good; but those who are advanc'd for any noble atchievment, have this preheminance, that they have alwayes the principal charges and commands in the Army.

These Kings being perpetually emulous, and jealous of one another to the highest degree, do commonly declare warr upon the slightest occasion; so that upon the least apprehension of injury, the King calls his Courtiers together, tells them his disgust, requires their assistance, and they in hopes of booty and plunder conclude upon a warr. An Herald is immediately dispatch'd to the Enemy, and a time and place appointed for the battel; his Subjects are advertis'd of the quarrel by his Guards, and a place set for the Rendezvous; there is an universal

A Voyage to Guinee. 253

universal appearance of joy, every one prepares against that day, as cheerfully, as it were to be his wedding; they paint and adorn themselves with variety of colours, and from that instant conceive a mortal and implacable hatred against their Enemies: if the injury be great, and the warr likely to be long, they take their Wives and Children with them into the field, burning their houses, lest it should be their misfortune to be beaten, and they become a prey to the Foe: if the quarrel be but small, they send them to the next Town where there is peace, to attend their success.

They meet precisely at the day and place, the Captains with Casques upon their heads, some of them made of the Skulls of such people as they have kill'd in the precedent warrs, others of the
Skins

254 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Skins of Lyons or Crocodiles, with plumes of feathers upon them if they have any : on their left arm they carry a large Buckler made of the Skin of a Tygre or Oxe, with a Dart in their right hand ; they have no defensive arms, nor any thing at all upon their bodies, but a piece of linnen before, that they may be the more active and agile when they come to be ingaged ; before them they have their Swords carryed, behind & of each side, their Slaves with their Bows & Arrows. The common Souldiers are armed with a kind of Battle-axe and Swords, and having of late by their Commerce with the *Europeans* some of them got Musquets, they are look'd upon as brave fellows, and plac'd in the Front.

Being come near one another, they give a great shout, and fall on, they

A Voyage to Guinee. 253

they throw their Darts immediately, shoot Arrows without number, covering themselves with their Bucklers against the blows of their Enemies; when they once come to the Sword, they are Devils and not men, the very Women and Children kill and slay, and adding their cries to the noise of the Trumpets and Drums (which are playing incessantly) they increase the fury in their Parents, and excite them to more inhumanity. The slaughter continues till one side be defeated, but when they see the victorie clear, they give quarter then, and fall a taking of Prisoners, which are made Slaves out of hand, and can never be ransom'd upon any terms whatsoever.

When the battel is over, some of them (as an expression of their hatred to their Enemies, and devotion

votion to their Prince) will eat the bodies of those they have kill'd, but all of them cut off their under Jaws, and hang them afterwards before their doors as a mark of honour, which is the first step as it were of recommending them to the Nobility.

As their wars are commenc'd upon frivolous occasions, so they are like a wisp of straw, no sooner kindled, but extinguish'd. Sometimes they last longer indeed than others, but seldome any considerable time. If after a lusty engagement, they be any better inclin'd, they agree upon a place, where they meet exactly, bring their *Fetiches* along with them, upon which they swear solemnly on both sides, to do no hurt for the future, to retain no malice, nor to remember their past hostilitie, and for their further securitie, hostages

A Voyage to Guinee. 257

ges are deliver'd, which are commonlie the Sons of the Kings, or (if they have none) the principal persons of the Countrey. The rest of the day is spent by both parties, in mirth, singing, dauncing, and making good cheer, after which, Trading revives betwixt them, and they live as lovingly, as if they had never had warrs.

Whilst we were in that Countrey, there was a very fierce War brake out upon this occasion, *Abrambou* is a Seigneury which has six Towns under it, independant of any of their Kings, and holding of no body but the Emperour of *Achim* or *Arcanis-Grand*. The Predecessor of him that possess'd it then, who was dead about four years before, would needs put a duty upon the Merchants of *Acanis* the less, and all such as past through

258 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

through his dominions, nor was there any of the Neighbouring Kings durst expostulate the business, so great was his courage and power.

After his death, the Merchants of *Acanis* demanded restitution of such goods as had been taken away by violence before, and were in possession of the present Prince, but they were refused, whereupon those of *Acanis* declared war against him: the King of *Fetu's* Son being by accident at *Acanis*, ingaged generously with the Town, and was slain in the first battail. His Father having no more Sons, and resenting the loss of him, the more because he was so extraordinarily hopefull, joyn'd himself with the Town of *Acanis*, against the Lord of *Abrambou*, and ingaged all his allyes in the quarrel also, in so much as the war
con-

A Voyage to Guinee. 259

continued above four years, had
destroyed more then 60000 men,
and put a stop to all Commerce
and Trade; The Generals of the
English, Danes, and Hollanders,
used all possible means to accomo-
date the difference, but in vain;
and in memory of a Battail gain'd
by the King of *Fetu* in this war,
was the great Feast at *Frederis-
bourg* I have spoken of before.
There was a quarrel also betwixt
the Kings of *Fantin, & Sabou*, about
a Noble-man of *Fantin* who had
been in love with a Lady of *Sabou*,
and stolen her away: the diffe-
rence not being to be composed in
an amicable way, both Kings ha-
ving taken cognizance of it, they
were so highly incensed, they fell
to war immediately, endeavouring
to have surprized one another as I
have mentioned before, for they
doe not always come to a pitch'd-
field,

260 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

field, but sometimes endeavour to destroy one another by surprizes and in-Roads, by burning, pillaging of their Towns, and taking all prisoners they meet.

The *Danish* General told me, that sometimes a Gentleman (if he were wealthy and rich) would be able to make war against his King, so strangely are the *Mores* addicted to gain, and indeed it is no wonder having so little affection or kindness for one another, they will scarce give a wounded man a drop of water to save his life, but will see one another dye like doggs without any relief, and for the most part the first that forsake them are their Wives and their Children.

At *Frederisbourg* we saw a poor creature abandon'd by all people, and the *Mores* admiring how we durst come near him: but his infirmity

firmity being only an oppression in his Stomach, our Chyrurgeon cured him with ease; we saw him afterwards merry and drinking with his Camerades, who used him then with a thousand caresses, though but eight dayes before his Wife and Children had deserted him, as not knowing his malady.

Of their Civil and their Criminal Justice, and of the successions of particular men.

AMongst these brutish, and barbarous Nations, Justice has its place, and all Crimes are punishable, though not capitally, but upon great offences. To begin with their Criminal Justice, he which is accused of adultery, or felony, is immediately cited by the Judge, who having hear'd what he could say, and found his defence

defence to be impertinent, sets a fine upon him out of hand, which he is oblig'd to pay down into the hands of the Receiver of the Customs. If he be not able to pay it, he is sold as a Slave, and can never redeem himself afterwards. If the Criminal be escaped, his Kindred are to pay it, unless they will choose to leave the Kingdome rather, and that without hopes of ever coming into it again. If the accusation be for adultery, (that is to say with the first Wife of another Man) the Husband has power to divorce himself from her, but he cannot make her a Slave.

If it be matter of homicide, fratricide, or disobedience to his Majesties Orders, they are carryed before the King, as crimes extraordinary: and if the thing be not very foule indeed, he condemnes

A Voyage to Guinee. 263

demnes them only in a sum of Money, one half to be pay'd to his Courtiers who are present at the Tryal (which is always in publique) and the other to be pay'd into the Kings Treasury. If the Offender be judged to dye, he is led out of the Town blindfolded, and at the place of Execution, run thorow with a Javelin, his head cut off, and hung upon a Tree, and the rest of his body cut into mammocks, and thrown into the aire.

If one be accused in any Civil, or Criminal case, and he desires to purge himself by oath, in drinking, or eating his *Fetich*, he is permitted, and if he be found dead the next morning, the informer goes to pot in his place, and pays a good round sum as a penalty to the King: But if there be several witnesses which depose against the

Cri-

Criminal, in that case he is not allowed to swear.

They hate adultery mortally, if committed with their first Wives, for which reason, they punish that as severely as any other Crime, and so it happens sometimes, that out of the malice they doe naturally bear to one another, the Father accuses the Son, and the Son the Father: If an Offender escapes, and is taken again, he has a large fine set upon his head, and is made a Slave into the Bargaine, without all hopes of redemption.

In their Civil affaires, whether for debt or any thing else, they are cited befor the Judge of that place; which I saw my self in the person of one called *Pitre* at *Frederisbourg*; being come before the Judge, the plaintiff spake first, the defendant answered, and after they had pleaded what they could

A Voyage to Guinee. 265

could on both sides, the Judge pronounced Sentence immediately, which is so peremptory and Authentick, their lyes no appeal against it in any other place, but tis executed forthwith.

Sometimes the business is so difficult, the Judge will not undertake to determine it, but transfers it to the King, in which cases their anger and indignation is many times so increast, that of Civil Offenders, they become Criminals, and challenging one another, they come into the field with three or four seconds on a side, and a resolution to decide it by the word: If one be killed upon the place, the other is obliged to run out of the Kingdom: If he be taken, he is brought before the King, who sets a good lusty Fine upon him, upon the payment of which he is discharged: This act

M

of

266 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

of grace has such an influence, and authority upon the people, no body dares asperse him in the least with what is past, no not so much as the Widdow nor Children of him that is slain, to whom by the Justice of the Country, a moiety of the Fine does naturally belong: if he has not wherewithall to pay his Fine, he is made a Slave, and delivered up to them to be sold into forreign Countries, after which he is never to appear in his own again.

There was one *Jean Classe* Governour of *Acanis*, who came aboard us every day, he told us, that having fought a duell upon occasion of a Civil affaire, and killed his adversary, he had a Fine set upon him of a hundred and seventy Marks of Gold, and pay'd it every penny to the King.

The Judges are ordinarily the
Captain:

A Voyage to Guinee. 267

Captains of the Towns, that the King may have no more Officers to pay then are necessary, and that more advantage might accrew to his Treasury, by the Feasts and Presents they are obliged to make him.

For their inheritances (which amongst us make the greatest part of our suits) they have no controversy at all, the next Kinsman inheriting always amongst them, to the exclusion of Wife and Children, who have nothing left them, and are sometimes constrain'd to serve for their living, though their Husband and Father dyed never so rich; for which reason, the good man uses them to work betimes, that when he comes to dye, it may be no news to them, but that subsisting by their labour, they need not be forced to turn Slaves for a livelyhood.

268 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

*Of their Beasts, their Birds, and
their Fish.*

IN these Countries there are but few Elephants to be seen, but great store of Lyons, Tygres, Leopards, Panthers, and other beasts of prey: they afford likewise multitudes of Oxen, Cows, Hoggs, Goats, Sheep, Staggs, Roe-Bucks, Wild-bores, Deer, and Hares, and other beasts which are very good meat, besides Civet-Cats, and Apes, of several kinds.

They have Dragons also, and a sort of great Lizards which are good to eat; they have Serpents of unmeasurable bigness, as also Crocodils, and Cameleons; these last are about the bigness of our green Lizards in *France*, and do not change their colour as is imagined, but having their skins firm

and

A Voyage to Guinee. 269

and scaly like glass, they represent variety of colours according to the different reflections upon them, which is the ground of that error.

Their wild Fowle, and Birds of prey, are Eagles, of which they have several kinds, but one especially, and which is to be found only in the Kingdom of *Acara*; it has the feathers of a Peacock, the leggs of a Storke, the Beak of a Heron, and a Crown of feathers upon the head. The Commissioner at *Acara* sent a live one to *Frederisbourg*, and another dead, which was very good meat, but the live one was sent to the King of *Denmark*; From hence it is our grey Parrots, with red tayles and wings are brought, which are observed to speak sooner then from any other place: their *Parraquittes* are very beautifull to the eye, they have their bodies and

270 *A Voyage to Guinees.*

their heads green, and as small as linnets, their beak and feet like parrets, edg'd with a kind of reddish Orange colour, like our goldfinch, their musick is not very pleasant, but some say they learn to speak well enough: they have a thousand sorts of little birds of all colours, black, red, yellow, green, and mixt, which they take commonly with netts.

Their Fowle for the Table are Hens, Pigeons, *Pintades* Geese, Dutch and Mallard, Pheasants and Partridge, but smaller then ours, Peacocks, Feldifars, Cranes, Ringdoves, Turtles, and Beet in great multitudes; in short they may be said to abound with all sorts of Birds which are visible amongst us, unless it be Larks, of which sort I could never see any.

Having spoken before of their
Fish,

A Voyage to Guinee. 27r

Fish, and manner of fishing, I shall say nothing of their Fish again, out of such as are to be seen upon the Coast, having indeed nothing to say of such as are to be found in their Rivers and Lakes, which are farther up in the Countrey.

Their Sea-fish are the Gold-fish, *Bonittes*, *Jacos*, as bigg as our Calves, Sea-pikes, fresh-Cod, Tunny-fish, and Thorneback; Small fish they have in abundance, especially Pilchards, which are fatt and excellently good: they have a sort of flying fish to which are very good meat, and as white as snow: their biggest oysters (of which they have great quantities all along these Coasts) are no bigger then our smallest, but very good meat, as their cockles are likewise.

It is very dangerous washing ones self upon these Coasts, espe-

272 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

cially near the Island of *St. Thomas*, in respect of a ravenous sort of fish called *Requiens*, which abound there.

From *Cape-Verd* to the Island of *Saint Thomas*, there is a fish which fastens it self always to the Keel of the Ship, and will not be got off: the *Hollanders* call it the *Ordure-fish*, because it lives only of the ordure which is thrown out of the Ship: it is of the shape of a *Grou-din*, but shorter, and without scales, it has the skin of an *Eele*, is head and excoriated like that, and has much of its fat, and tast also: it sticks so fast to a Ship by the help of a thing it has upon its head, about three broad and eight fingers long, that there is not a man living can put it off.

Their

*Their Fruits, Hearbs, Bread, Mil-
let, Mays, their manner of
sowing and making
of Salt.*

THeir Fruits upon these
Coasts are Plums, Pears,
Oranges, Citrons, Cuckoe-nuts,
and Figgs, but of the last no great
plenty.

The General of *Fredèrisbourg*
has made a Garden about Musquet
shot from the Castle, where he
has Cabbage, and Roman Lettice,
which grow very well, they have
excellent Mellons, and the ground
covered all over with a kind of
Purslane; Besides which, they
have in many places another hearb
they call *Tetie*, in its stalk and
leafe not unlike our Rape, it is
pleasant to eat; and very good for
the Stomach.

274 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

They have *Potatoes* good store, which the *Hollander* has brought over, and calls them *Field Artichocks*, because they have the tast of our *Ignames*, which is a thick root very white within, which they cut in trenches, as they doe Turneps in *Limousin*: and this is the bread and sole nourishment of the poore and Peasants of that Countrey: their Beans, and their Peas are of several colours, red, black, violet colour, and grey, and a sort of Lentils in great abundance, which are easily bak'd, and very good meat.

They make their bread of three several sorts of seed; some of them of Rice, which is very white, but heavy upon the Stomach; others of their *Millet*, which is something browner then ours, but has not so good a tast when 'tis made of that alone; the other of

Mays,

Mays or Turkey Corne, which is well, and very common, but much better if mingled with the flower of *Millet*, which makes it more pleasant.

When the Month of *April* approaches, they go to the Receiver of the Kings dutys for permission to sow, (all the fields belonging wholly to the King) having obtained leave, they go up and down rooting up the bushes from one side to the other, and then digging it once or twice, they let it lye for a day or two, and then sow it with Rice, *Millet*, or *Mays*, for the King or the Governour, and when they have done for them, they begin for themselves.

When they have done sowing, they bring all the bushes they have stub'd up into a corner of the field, and then burn them, singing,

276 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

ing, and dancing, and throwing about their Palme-Wine, in honour of their *Fetiches*, to the end they may send them a happy Harvest: It appears in eight dayes afterwards, and they reap it in three Months; those who have not sowne, buy their provision for the whole year at that time; those who have, and are obliged to go to the Receiver, carry him such a proportion of gold as they think reasonable which the Receiver carries afterwards to the King, and is very well treated for his paines.

Their *Mays* or Turkey Corne, agrees best with the Hills, their Millet, and Rice, with the Vallys; they plant their *Mays*, as we doe our Peas, but their Millet, and Mays is sowne as we doe our Corne.

I did not observe many Flowers
upon

A Voyage to Guinee. 277

upon the Coasts, only one whose leaves and stalk were as large as our Mustard-tree: the flower is of an admirable flame colour, but no scent at all, they are most common about the Isle of *Saint Thomas*.

Their Salt is whiter and better then ours, they make it in great quantity in *January*, *February*, and *March*, which they carry up afterwards higher into the Country, and make good advantage by it, but it has this defect, it will not endure their violent heats, but becomes bitter and acide.

of

*Of their Gold, where it is found,
and how, with the variety of
works they make of it.*

THe Gold which is transported in so great quantities from these Coasts, that it gives them the Epithet of *Golden*, is taken in several places.

The Gold of *Axime* is reckon'd the best, and is oftentimes found in pieces of two and twenty, or three and twenty Carrets.

The Gold of *Acara* or *Tasore* is something less: that of *Acanis* and *Achema* is next, and the worst of all is the Gold of *Fetu*.

The manner of taking it, is known only by the report of the *Negroes*, and (if they speak truth) is several wayes.

Those of *Axime* and *Achema* find it in the sands of their Rivers,
in

in powder: and 'tis to be suppos'd would they digg at the feet of the Mountains where these Rivers arise, 'tis probable they would meet with greater proportions, seeing by their own confessions, after a lusty showre their plenty is increast, upon which score they have this superstition amongst them, that when they want Gold, they pray to their *Fetiches* to send them good store of raine, and they are sure to be supply'd, as I hinted before.

The Gold of *Acara* comes from the Mountain of *Tafou*, some thirty leagues distance from the Town, which is three dayes journey up in the Countrey: One of the Captains of the Blacks had a great desire to have carryed me to the place, and would have left the Kings Brother and Son in hostage; but the water failing as
we

280 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

we were ready to go, we could not proceed in our design. He told us that the Mine belonged to the King, that there was no more to be done but to digg about the Mountain, and they would have gold enough ; that those who found it were to have one Moiety, and the King the other, that he had an in-got of gold before his gate, which by the universal confession of all the *Negroes*, was bigger than the *Fetiché* of the whole Countrey, and taken out of this Mountain.

An Officer at *Frederisbourg*, who has been several times at *Fetu* and *Acanis*, assured me, that those two Kings had each of them before the gates of their Palaces a golden *Fetiché* of a vast bigness, not so big indeed as that of the King of *Fetu*, but yet full as big as a Peck.

The

A Voyage to Guinee. 281

The gold of *Acanis*, and *Fetu*, is found in the earth by digging, sometimes more, and sometimes less; he which discovers a Mine has one half, and the King the other: it is never above twenty or one and twenty Carretts; it is melted down at neither place, but brought to us aboard, as it is taken out of the ground.

The *Danish* General has an ingot of gold taken out of the Mountain of *Tafou* which weighs seventeen Marks, and about the seventh part of an Ounce. It was a present sent him by the King of *Acara*, when his Army was beaten by the Seigneur of *Acara*, and he protected him in his Fort.

When the *French*, and the *Portugais* frequented these Coasts, the Natives knew not the value of their gold, but since other Nations have been admitted, (and the

282 *A Voyage to Guineæ.*

the *Hollanders* especially) they have learn'd by their earnest desire to have it, that 'tis of more price, and do now hold it so dear, and stand so high in their demands, 'tis almost insupportable.

Besides that, they have found out new wayes of increasing their quantities by adulterating it, and mingling it with little pieces of Copper, which they call *Quaquara*, or otherwise with Brass: the chief place for this Artifice is *Commendo*, where I may say boldly there are the best cheats in the world.

Yet these practices are only amongst the lesser sort of Merchants, of whom great care is to be taken, for they are so ingenious in this kind, there is not a cheat or forgery that can fall under the invention of mankind,
which

A Voyage to Guinee. 283

which they do not use for the circumvention of strangers.

They pretend very much to imitate the *Europeans* in their working of their Gold, and to speak truth they are so happy as to surpasse all the workmen I ever saw; their files are much finer than ours, and will make their work as fine as our *Filigranne*.

The King of *Fetu* has a Casque, and a suit of Armes of beaten Gold, admirably well done. Amongst other things they make great quantities of Bracelets of polish'd Gold, and of those *Fetiches* which they wear upon their heads, as thin as paper: But above all things they transcend in their hatbands which they make of threads, as fine as any haire. Their Kings have their Vessels in Gold still, their working Goldsmiths making every thing they fancy,

284 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

fancy, and every thing that comes into their heads.

The Wives and Daughters of their Kings, Merchants, and Nobility of that Country, are so well laden with Rings, Bracelets, and *Fetiches* of Gold, especially when they go to their *Balls*, that they have sometimes in such trifles, to the weight of twenty, or five and twenty Marks of Gold, and the men to thirty or forty.

It is so incredibly plentiful in those parts, that a King upon an ordinary Festival will distribute two hundred Marks of Gold amongst his Courtiers, and sometimes more; for which reason, the *Negroes* delight to have liberal Kings, that their largesses may be more frequent, and the Gold (not being lockt up in their private Coffers) may expend and circulate thorow the whole Kingdome.

Nor

A Voyage to Guinee. 285

Nor is the dearness of their provisions, a small argument of the plenty aforesaid; a Fricasse of Pullets bought of the *Mores* will cost two Crowns at least, a Pot of their Palme-Wine as it comes intirely from the tree, a Crown, and is no more then three of our *Chopines* at *Paris*. 'Tis true amongst themselves things are not altogether so dear, but having taken up an opinion that the Whites make treble advantage of whatever they buy of them, they sell every thing they can possibly at that rate to them: their fish is somewhat cheaper indeed, and for ten pence one may have as much as will suffice ten men.

Notwithstanding all the paines I did take, I could never inform my self further concerning their Gold, or their manner of taking it out of the Mines: talk to a thou-

286 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

thousand persons of it, and they will all tell you several storyes, not that they are ignorant themselves, but their diffidence of the Whites is so invincibly great, they will never be perswaded to impart it to them.

*Of the return of our Vessel
for Europe.*

THe immense profits that are made upon these Coasts being obvious to all people, it would be superfluous to speak any more of them: by the universal consent of the whole world, it is agreed that these Voyages are more certain and advantagious then any other, which appears by the extraordinary attempts
have

A Voyage to Guinee. 287

have been made by all Nations of *Europe*, to make themselves absolute Masters there, and evinceth the truth of what I have said, to any one that imagines the contrary, so that it remaines now, that I speak only one word of our return.

Having finish'd our trading designs, we weigh'd Anchor from before *Frederisbourg* the twentieth of *April*, and sayl'd directly for the Port of *Saint Thomas*, (which is an Island belonging to the *Portugais*, scituated directly under the Line) to supply our selves with fresh victuals for so long a Voyage. The first two dayes we steer'd our course East and by South, the two next East South-East, and the two next full East ; after which, we discover'd the Island of *Saint Thomas*, and came to an
Anchor

288 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

Anchor before the Castle on the
sixth of *May*, seven dayes after
our departure from *Frederisbourg*,
having made in all twenty six
leagues and upwards.

THE



THE
DESCRIPTION
of the Isle of
S A I N T T H O M A S
which lies under the Line.

ON the eighth of *May* we made a visit to the Governor of the Castle, who received us with great civility, but would not be perswaded to permit us to go into the Town; he gave Orders to his Lieutenant to treat us
N with

290 *A Voyage to Guinea.*

with all respect, which he was not able to perform himself, by reason of an indisposition that was upon him at that time.

He is a little man, well proportion'd, about forty or fifty-years of age, his name is *Acosta*, a fierce quick man, but very civil. That night a Captain of the Fort came aboard us, to whom we gave an account of what provisions we wanted, and the Governour order'd us to be supply'd the last day in Rogation week.

Every day whilst we lay there at Anchor, our men went to a little River which runs hard by into the Sea, to provide our selves with fresh water, which is indeed the best in all *Africk*, for we kept it a year afterwards, and it was as good and as sweet as the first day.

A Voyage to Guinee. 291

day. During all the time we were there, not one person of our Crew was permitted to go on shore, but my self, who had that privilege by being a Frenchman.

I lay on shore three nights, but desiring the Governours leave that our Notary might doe the same for the benefit of his health, he told me for my self all places were free, I might go whether, and buy what I pleased, but for the Notary he could not permit it, he being a *Flemming*; that if our whole Equipage had been *French*, they should all have had the same liberty, but that the *Portugais* had too rational a jealousy of the *Dutch* to allow them a freedom that had not been practis'd since the Island came into their hands; that the Town was then a rebuilding, and that there

292 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

still remain'd the foot-steps of the mischiefs and desolations the *Hollanders* had made there, especially amongst their Churches, which were very beautifull.

The Island of *Saint Thomas* is about sixty leagues in circumference, it has a Bishoprick in it, and a Cathedral (which they were then in repaying) not inferiour in bigness to *Saint Meredick* in *Paris*, but much more beautifull, and neat, the Musick and Chapter were maintained at the King of *Portugals* charge: Besides that they had *Negroes* to their Priests, I was much pleas'd to hear the little *Morish* Boys, which serve there in the Quire, and sing without Notes or Books, as exactly as our Choristers in *France*, which I observ'd in their Procession, the first day of their *Rogations*: all the *Mores* in that Island are Christians:
the

A Voyage to Guinee. 233

the Town consists of about five hundred houses, the most part of Wood, since the *Hollanders* took it, and burn'd it.

The general opinion is, that this Island is not healthfull, but they have all things necessary for the life of Man, in that plenty and abundance, that 'tis a Miracle to me considering the heat of the Climat, and the unwholsomness of the aire. The Sugar which comes from hence, is cryed up above all the Sugar in the world.

They have a faire *Citadel* built upon the Sea-side, on the East-side of the Town (with its gate towards the North) about the distance of Musquet shot; the figure is square, fortified with four good Bastions, lined with Freestone, planted with sixty pieces of brass Canon, carrying from eight, to eight and forty pound bullet.

294 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

bullet. But so many Authors having writ of it at large, it would but importune the Reader to enlarge any further.

Upon Ascension day we weigh'd Anchor, and set sayle for *Europe*, having saluted the Castle with five Guns, and received their complement in three, steering South-West, though the wind stood South-East, and is so constantly upon those Coasts, the next day we discovered *Anabou*, another Island in the possession of the *Portugais*; at which place we began to alter our course Westward, as we did many times afterwards, according to the discretion of our Pilots.

We past on the back-side of *Scotland*, coasting upon the *Isles de Terra*, which are under the Dominion of the King of *Denmark*, and upon the Coasts of *Norway*, where
meet-

A Voyage to Guinee. 295

meeting with some *Dutch* Ships, we received the first news of the Treaty at *Breda*, which was the most remarkable thing in our passage; for our Pilots having been mistaken, and run to the windward more then two hundred leagues too much, I can say but little of our return.

In short, on the 29th. of *August* we found our selves at the mouth of the *Texel*, where for want of a faire wind our Ship was forc'd to ride at Anchor till the first of *September*, at which time we entred, and on the fourth following came to an Anchor before *Amsterdam*, where all the Officers, (except the Captain and the Secretary) were arrived the last of *August*, by the convenience of a shallop with Oares, which do usually come out to all such Ships as are to go into the *Texel*, for that purpose. And

266 *A Voyage to Guinee.*

And thus was our Voyage concluded, having spent in our journey, our stay, and return, about nine Months and a half, without any disaster, or the loss of any more then one man, who dyed as we were passing the Line, of a dysentery he had got at the Island of *Saint Thomas*, by eating too great a quantity of their Sugar, and sweet meats, all the rest both Officers and Soldiers were continually in health, lively, brisk, and well disposed, without the least malady or sickness in the world. For which God be praised.

F I N I S.

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