

A New and Accurate

DESCRIPTION

OF

P E R S I A,

AND

Other Eastern Nations.

C O N T A I N I N G

The Natural History of those Countries; the Religion, Temper, Manners and Customs of their Inhabitants; their Apparel, Exercises and Games; Arts, Trades, Manufacture, and Commerce.

W I T H

Genuine Copies of the Instructions given by the *English, French, and other European Powers*, to their Respective Embassadors at that Court, and at those of *China, Japan, and other Neighbouring Empires*; no less Useful and Instructive for carrying on the Commerce in those Parts, than Entertaining to the Curious.

Illustrated with a great Number of Cuts of Habits, Towns, Beasts, Birds, Ruins, Prospects at Sea, &c.

V O L. I.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *A. Bettefworth* and *J. Batley* in *Pater-noster-Row*; *J. Brotherton* and *W. Meadows* in *Cornhill*; *C. Rivington* in *St. Paul's-Church-Yard*; and *J. Hooke* in *Fleet-street*. 1724.



TO HIS GRACE

J A M E S,

Duke of CHANDOS,
Marquis and Earl of Car-
narvon, Viscount Chandos of
Wilton in Herefordshire,
Lord Chandos of Sudley in
Gloucestershire, and Gover-
nour of the Turkey-Company.

May it please your GRACE,



GRACE'S Feet.

B E G. leave, with
all Submission, to
lay the following
Translation at your

A 2

What

The DEDICATION.

What has your Grace's Approbation, cannot fail of being well receiv'd by the Publick.

And here my Lord, a vast Field of Matter opens it self for me to inlarge upon; to wit, your Grace's many excellent Qualities, which your very Enemies, (if it be possible that there are any such) cannot but with Confusion own: But this I shall decline to enter upon, for two incontestible Reasons: The First, from my Inability of doing Justice to so great and good a Subject; the Second, from a just Apprehension, lest I should offend your Modesty.

I shall therefore only add one Thing, with regard to my
Author

The DEDICATION.

Author, which is, That when I reflect upon the Clearness and Method with which he has handl'd his Subjects, together with that Sincerity which is not very common in a Traveller of good Invention, I am not a little surpris'd that he has not appear'd compleat in our Language before : But since his Second and Third Volume, with a little of his First, have fallen to my share, I am equally pleas'd, since it has given me an Opportunity of offering my Mite.

Not to mention the celebrated Mr. *Bayle* ; *Monf. Tournefort*, who has travell'd into those Parts where our Author form'd his Works, in his Sixth Letter

The DEDICATION.

to *Monf. Pontchartrin*, is pleas'd
to give him the Character of an
Author of great Exactness.

As for my own Part, I hope
that I have done him Justice in
the Translation: And if it
have the good Fortune to be an
Amusement to your Grace, at
your leisure Hours, I shall
esteem my self very happy:
That your Grace may enjoy an
uninterrupted Course of Health
and Happiness, is the sincere
Wishes of

Your Grace's

Most Humble and

Obedient Servant,

EDM. LLOYD.



THE
PREFACE.



AM not to inform the Reader, that the First Volume of Sir JOHN CHARDIN'S Travels has already been publish'd in *English*, (I think in the Year 1686.)

That Volume relates to his Travels between *Paris* and *Ispahan*, where that Translation leaves him.

There I begin with him, and go through with the rest of his Works.

The many *French* Editions of them, are a sufficient Proof of the Reputation which the Author had Abroad; and who

The P R E F A C E.

ever will consult the Celebrated Mr. Bayle, in his Months of *September* and *October*, 1686. call'd, his *News from the Republick of Letters*, will yet receive him with greater Pleasure.

And Mons. *Tournefort*, who travell'd by the late King of *France's* Order into *Turkey* and *Persia*, often makes Honourable Mention of Sir JOHN CHARDIN: But more particularly in his Sixth Letter to Mons. *Pontchartrin*, Secretary of State, wherein, speaking of the Country of *Georgia*, he says thus;

“ Mons. CHARDIN gives a very
“ Long and Particular Account how
“ *Georgia* fell into the Hands of the *Per-*
“ *sians*, and to him I refer the Reader,
“ as being an Author of great Exact-
“ nefs.

But to return to my Subject, it must be observ'd, That our Author, from the
Nature

The P R E F A C E.

Nature of his Employment, as a *Jeweller*, and one who had receiv'd so large a Commission from the Father of the King Reigning, at his Second Return into that Country, for Jewels; gave him Advantages superior to most others who have travell'd thither, of making the best Observations, having all the Opportunities requisite to such an End, from his constant Attendance on the Court, and Conversation with the Chief Ministers about it.

As for my own Part, I have (if that be not a Fault) been very faithful to our Author, in giving him as he is, without either adding or diminishing; I have even been so Conscientious as to insert a Paragraph as it is in the Original, which I must confess I cannot wholly give into, tho' as near as I can remember, it is the only Thing throughout his whole Work, (where he speaks, dead as I may say) that one may not readily

dily

The P R E F A C E.

dily give into it, a Thing pretty rare for a Traveller of a good Invention, it is this: In speaking of the Fruits in *Persia*, and among the rest of the Melons, he says, there are some People who will eat 35 Pound Weight of Melon at a Meal, without hurting themselves: and yet this may be an Error of the Press.

But to proceed to the Order I have observ'd, with regard to the Translation; I was of Opinion, that to publish him in two large Volumes like the first, would not answer the Intention I had of Diverting, and not tiring the Reader; for which Reason I have follow'd the Method which has been us'd in *Holland*, where they have made ten, instead of three, Volumes of him, making each Subject a Book; as the History of *Persia* in general one; The Arts and Sciences another; The Political, Civil, and Military Government a Third,

The P R E F A C E.

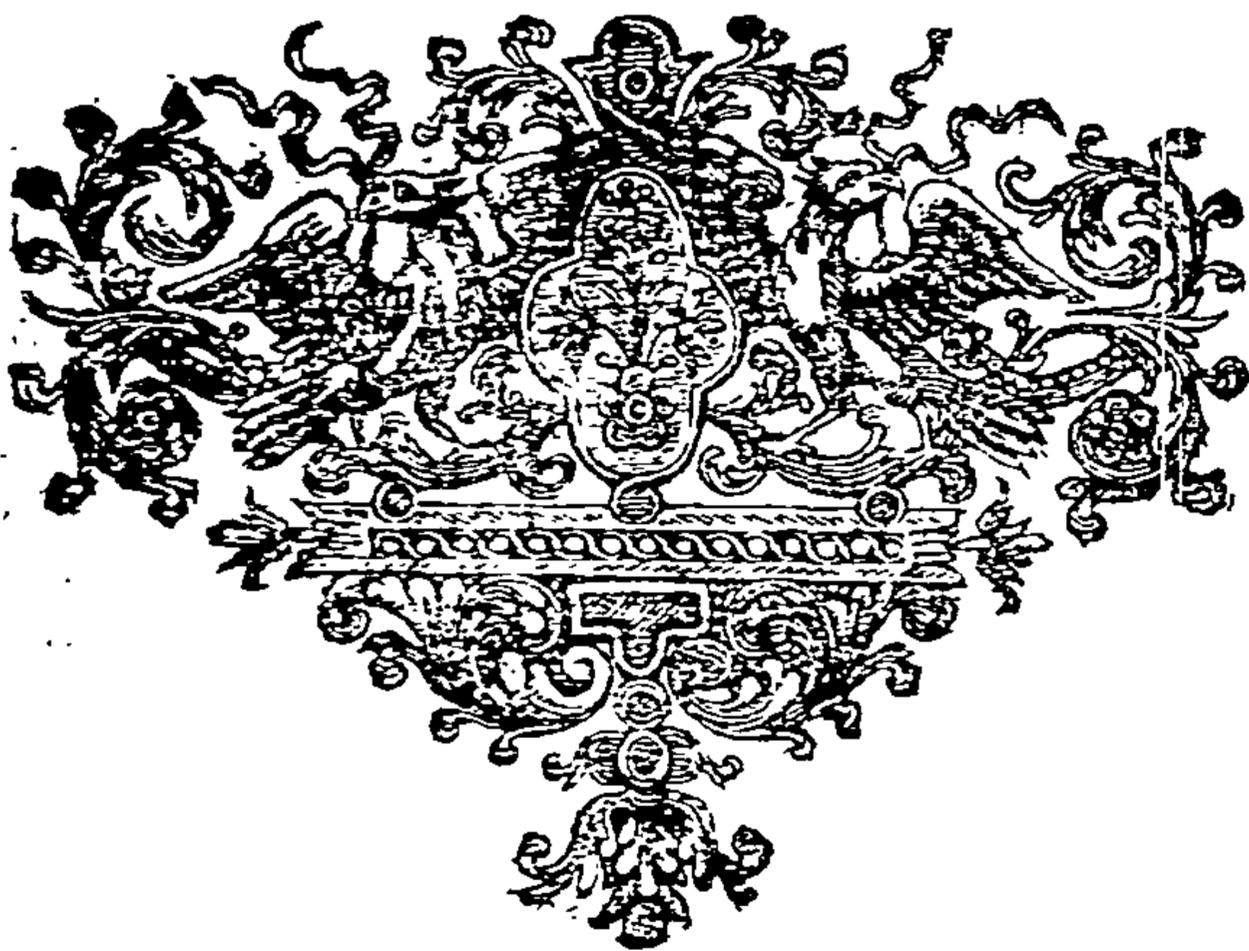
a Third, and so on: So that my Part of him will consist in Eight Volumes *Octavo*. As to the Method of Publishing them, I shall pursue that of the Author.

I must observe one Thing more before I take leave of the Reader, *viz.* That I have put one of the Fronts of the Royal Palace of *Ispahan* before the first Volume; (which I have entitl'd, *the Introduction*, because it touches and gives a Light into all the Subjects that follow) not that this Plate comes in there, for it comes in with the rest in the Description of the City of *Ispahan*, but only to give an Idea of the Magnificence of that vast Palace, which is without doubt the finest in the World.

N. B.

The P R E F A C E.

N. B. The Expence being very Considerable from the many Plates which this Work will take up, the Author proposes to go through with it by way of Subscription, the Conditions of which are in a loose quarter of a Sheet of Paper by the Title Page.



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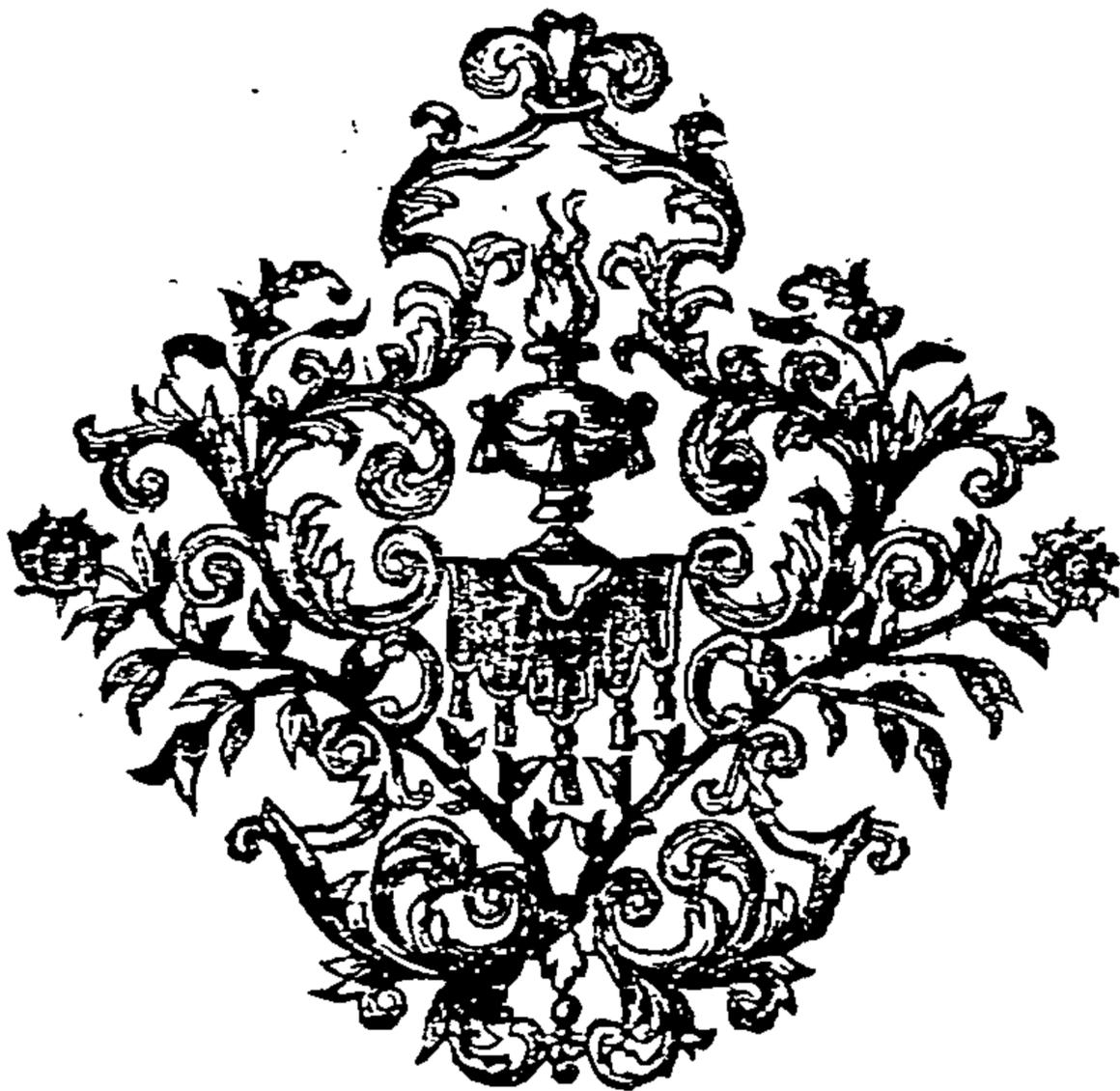
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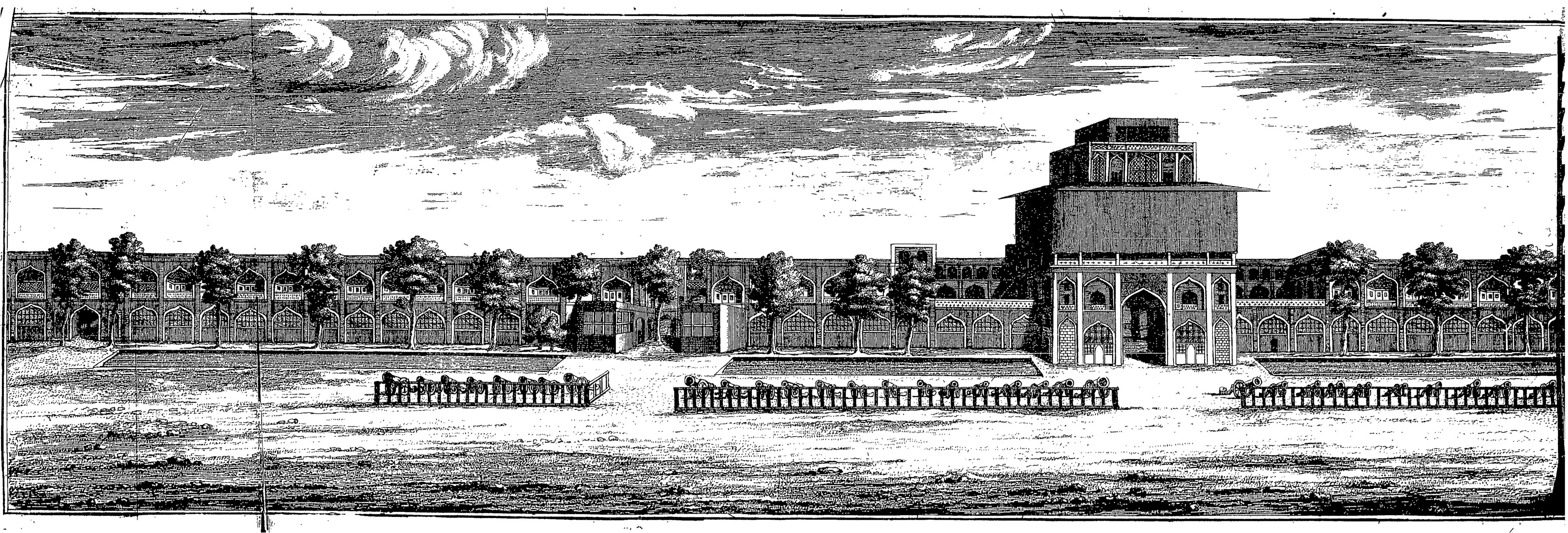
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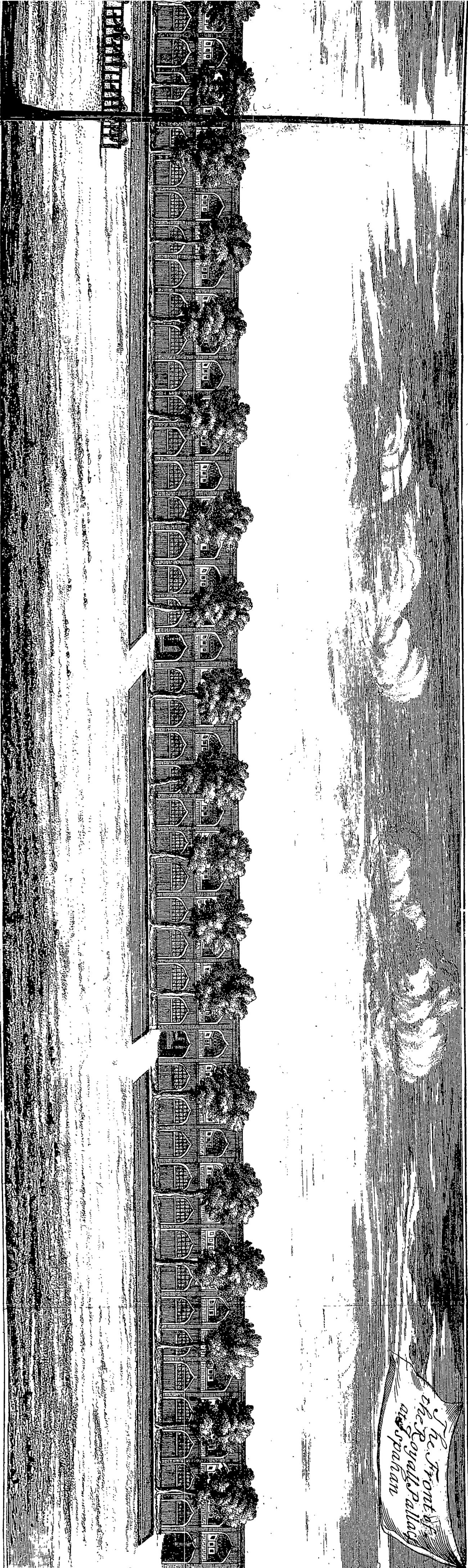
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The Front of
the Royal Palace
at Spalham





THE
INTRODUCTION.

CHAP. I.

The Author's Arrival at Ispahan. Monsieur D' l' Hay's Expedition to the East Indies, and his Miscarriage; with the Occasions of it. Wild Oxen at Trinc-male. The particular Qualities of the Flesh of that Beast. Cannonading and Taking of Coromandel.



BEING arriv'd at *Ispahan*, my Companion and I went and lodg'd at the Convent of the *Capucin Friars*, which is almost in the Heart of the Town, and at a little distance from the Royal Palace. I met with a Bag full of Letters there, which were directed to me from almost all Parts of the World. Those

a from

from *Constantinople*, gave me a Detail of the Campaign which the *Turks* made in *Poland*; having the foregoing Year, with little or no Opposition, pass'd the Great River *Neister*, they ravag'd the finest Provinces, and took the famous Fortrefs of *Camineick*, which was the Bulwark of *Poland*. I was, among other things, inform'd, that the *Ottoman* Army had pass'd the *Danube*, over a Bridge five hundred Geometrical Paces long, built by the greatest Care and Diligence, and at the Expence of the Prince of *Moldavia*; and because the Fabrick did not please the Grand Seignior, he depriv'd that unfortunate Prince of his Principality, and Sentenc'd him to pay a Fine of a hundred and fifty thousand Crowns.

My Letters from the *Indies* contain'd an Account of the Voyage of Monsieur *De la Hay*, Vice-Roy of *Madagascar*, who set out from *Rochel* with a considerable Squadron, in the beginning of the Year 1670. He was sent upon the Memorials of Monsieur *Carron*, Director General of the *French* Company, to put some great Designs in Execution, and among others, to Seize *Banca*, a little Island Scituated to the *East* of *Sumatra*, and pretty near *Batavia*. This little Isle of *Banca*, which is uninhabited, was not in any Body's Hands before that time.. M. *Carron* judg'd it a Place proper to be the principal Magazine of

of the *French* Company in the *Indies*; and he had form'd a Design to seize it by Surprise: But the *Hollanders*, who were very vigilant and circumspect in regard to the Dominion which they had got in those Countries, hit exactly upon the Aim of the *French* Fleet, as soon as they saw it was equipping. They in vain gave out in *France*, that it was design'd for the *West-Indies*, they would not be bubbld under that Pretext. They dispatch'd three Advice-Boats one after another to *Batavia*, with Orders for the Council to take Possession of *Banca*, which was executed even before Monsieur *De la Hay* arriv'd in the *Indies*. His was a long Voyage, and to his great Misfortune, he put in at *Madagascar*, where he took it in his Head to make War with the People of the Island, at the Sollicitation of the *French*, who were Establish'd there. He lost six Months there, and near a thousand Men, who might have been better employ'd elsewhere; for he got nothing by quarrelling with the *Negroes*, but on the contrary, he enraged them to such a Degree, that they would never after be at Peace, nor keep up any Commerce with the *French*, and at last drove them quite out of the Island.

Monsieur *De la Hay* went from *Madagascar* to *Surat*, and made a stay there till the beginning of the Year 1672; and then he set Sail from thence with Monsieur *Carron*,

contrary to whose Advice he had receiv'd Orders not to Act. The Fleet at that time, consisted of six Capital, Ships and four Pinks; they put into Harbour at *Goa*, on the 21st of *January*, and met with the *Great-Britain*, another of the King's Ships, with two Pinks. These thirteen Vessels steer'd their Course towards *Ceylan*, and arriv'd on the 21st of *March* at the Bay of *Coti-ari*, commonly call'd the Bay of *Trinc male*, which is a narrow, but good Bay, eight Degrees and thirty Minutes north Latitude, looking to the North East, and has a sound Bottom. The *Hollanders* had built a small Fortrefs about a League from the Shoar. There were but ten Men in Garrison, and they abandon'd it upon the first Sight of the *French* Fleet.

Monsieur De la Hay having cast Anchor, sent some Deputies to the King of *Candy*, (the lawful Lord of all the isle of *Ceylan*) who sent others back again to him; and after several goings and comings, they concluded a Treaty, by which that *Indian* Prince gave to the King of *France*, the Bay of *Trinc male*, and the Fort which the *Hollanders* evacuated. The Contract of this Donation was regularly drawn up, and executed in due Form. and they took Possession of the Bay and Fort under several Salvo's of the Artillery, and with all the usual Ceremonies. A few Days after they

they began to build a Fort at the Mouth of the Bay, and another above the Shore.

During these Negotiations a Sickneſs ſpread, and rag'd with great Violence among the Fleet. The Diſeaſe that reign'd moſt, was a burning Fever. The *Europeans* call the Diſtempers which they catch at *Ceylan*, the *Cinnamon Sickneſs*, becauſe the ſtrong Scents of that Wood inflame the Humours. Several dy'd of it, but the greater part of them recover'd, tho' they too found themſelves in the miſt of Penury and Want, as ſoon as they got rid of their Fevers; for the Victualling of the Fleet fell ſhort in the Month of *April*, notwithſtanding the good Management of the Vice-Roy, who order'd all the Proviſions to be bought up and ſold amongſt them again, not permitting any Perſon to deal with the Country People for Proviſions, for fear of Waſte. The moſt common Meat at *Trinc-male*, is Wild Oxen, yet they eat of it but ſeldom, and then ſparingly, by Reaſon of a Property which the Fleſh of that Animal has very particular to itſelf, and yet more ſtrange and ſurprizing: It ingenders Impoſthumations in the ſame Parts, and as painful as thoſe that are contracted from lewd Women. But that which is ſtill more particular, is, that there is no other Cure, but abſtaining from the Fleſh which occaſion'd them. They ſent three Ships to the Coaſt of *Cormandel* for Provi-

sions, but those Vessels being taken in their return by the *Hollanders*, the Fleet was reduc'd to so great a strait through the scarcity of Victuals, that although the two Fortresses which they were building, were not finish'd, they were compell'd to quit the Place, for fear of Perishing by Famine. They left behind them three hundred and fifty Men to go on with the Work, and a large Vessel for their Use, call'd the *St. John*.

The Pretext which the *Hollanders* made use of, to give a colour of Reason to their taking the three Ships, was, that they carried Provisions to their Enemies, for so they esteem the King of *Candy*, and the Inhabitants of *Trinc-male*. They offer'd some time after to restore them, and even press'd Monsieur *De la Hay* to receive them, or to take his Choice of some others out of the *Dutch* Fleet in lieu of them. They did not know then in the *Indies* that *France* had declar'd War with *Holland*; but the News coming a little while afterwards to the *Hollanders*, those Ships were judg'd to be good Prize; and the *Dutch* Fleet sailing to *Trinc-male*, they seiz'd the Ship, took the two Forts, and made all the *French* Prisoners.

Monsieur *De la Hay* arriv'd the 22d of *May* on the Coast of *Coromandel*, within sight of *St. Thomas's* Island. It is a little
Place

Place belonging to the King of *Colconda*, which the *Portugueze* were in Possession of for near a Century. and fortify'd it very well for that Country: The Walls are of Free-Stone, very high, and mighty thick, having regular Bastions about it, but no other Fortifications. The Vice-Roy sent to the Commandant of the Place, to desire Victuals for ready Money. He refus'd to sell any, excusing himself on the number of the Ships of the Fleet, which could not (as he said) be supply'd with Victuals, without leaving the Town itself quite destitute and unprovided. They did not know whether this Answer was sincere, or given rather at the suggestion of the *Hollanders*, who fac'd this Fleet every where, and follow'd it to all Parts with another. The Vice-Roy, who had no Provisions, seeing himself disappointed in that manner, caus'd the Town to be Cannonaded with that Violence, that in the space of four Hours they hung out a White Flag. He thereupon sent a Shallop on Shore, to demand whether they would deliver up the Town. The Commandant reply'd, that he did not think of doing that, but he was ready to let them have as much Provisions as they would for their Money. The Vice-Roy sent word back to the Commandant, That since he had been forc'd to compel him by dint of Cannon-Shot, to comply with what was so equitable and just,

he expected to be reimburs'd the Charges thereof. The Commandant desir'd to know how often he had fir'd, and what the Price was of each Shot? They answer'd, that they had fir'd five Thousand three Hundred times and would have twenty Crowns for each Shot. The Commandant, to gain time, and to have leizure to consider what Resolution he should take, answer'd, That he could do nothing without the Order of the Governor of the Province, that he was just then going to write to him, and would make his Answer known to the Vice Roy.

Montieur *De la Haye* saw plainly this was only to delay time: He sent the the Commandant Word he would wait three Days for the Governour's Answer but that if it did not come in that time, he would take the Town. He was as good as his Word: On the third Day in the Evening, he made a Descent with two Hundred Men, and two Field-pieces. He himself with about Fifty, Encamp'd over against one of the Gates of the Town, under some *Palm-Trees* that cover'd his Men, and sent an Officer with the rest, to the other side of the Town. Montieur *Carron* stay'd without taking any Command upon him. The next Morning at break of Day, he order'd the Gate to be batter'd. All the Town ran to the Ramparts on that side. This was what Montieur *De la Haye* desir'd: He gave the Signal to the Hundred
and

and fifty Men who were on the other side, who immediately fix'd their Scaling Ladders and lodg'd themselves upon the Bastions of the Enemy, without meeting with any Resistance; and they went down into the Town, where the Inhabitants wonder'd to see them, as if they had fallen from the Clouds. The Garrison quite dismay'd, threw themselves from the Walls, there were such Crouds at the Gates: And thus the Town was Taken, without the loss of more than twenty Men.

There is one remarkable Incident in this part of Monsieur *De la Haye's* Voyage. He had been inform'd, as I was assur'd from the King his Master's own Mouth, that he should declare War with the *Hollanders* in the Year 1671. The King told him so at his departure, in the Year 1670: And likewise, that he sent him to the *Indies* with no other Views than those of this War. But when he came to *Surat* at the end of the Year 1671, he found Letters there that inform'd him, the War had been deferr'd upon some important Reasons, but that it was only put off for a little time, and that Notice should be sent him shortly when the Declaration of War should be made. Accordingly two Packets were dispatch'd to him, in *August* and *September*, 1671; which brought him certain Advice, that War would be declar'd against the *Hollanders* the Spring following.

lowing. I my self dispatch'd those Packets a little before my departure from *Paris*, which were brought me by *Mons. Berrier* from *Mons. Colbert*. *Monsieur De la Haye* was just gone from *Surat* when those Letters arrived there. They were of Opinion to send them to him by an Express-Boat, which they certainly ought to have done; But *M. Blot*, one of the Directors of the Company, imagining there was no pressing Business in them, said there was no need of being at that Expence; and that there was an *Indian Vessel* belonging to the Broker of the *French Company*, which was Sailing for the Coast of *Malabar*, and that they might be sent that way. The Spirit of Covetousness prevail'd, and the Packets were given to the *Indian Vessel*: But mark the fatal End of it. The Corsairs of *Malabar* met with the Vessel, took it, and after six Months time, the Packets from the Court of *France* open'd and torn to Pieces, fell into the Hands of the *French Merchants* on that Coast, and were sent back to *Surat* in *February, 1673*, which was above a Year after they had been receiv'd from *France*. There is no doubt to be made, but that, if they had been deliver'd in due time, *M. De la Haye* would have destroy'd the *Dutch Fleet* that cover'd *Ceylan*, which was the whole Force the *Holland Company* had, and would afterwards have Conquer'd all
the

the Places which the *Hollanders* possess in that fine Island. He had an hundred times a desire to fall upon the *Dutch Fleet*, and he used to say from time to time, to M. *Carron*, Sir, I know that we, at this present time, have a War in Europe. with the *Hollanders*, and you see we shall never have a fairer Opportunity to begin one in the *Indies*. M. *Carron* put a stop to it, by saying, As yet we have no Orders, we must wait for them, or at least till we have certain Advices that War is declar'd in France. It is true, you would destroy this *Dutch Fleet*, but then another would come immediately from *Batavia*, and be as much too hard for us. M. *Carron* spoke very wisely according to his usual manner; but however he was mistaken on this Occasion, the *Hollanders* had no such thing as another Fleet at *Batavia*, and if that at *Ceylan* had been defeated, the *English Fleet* of ten Ships, which arriv'd near the Year's end on the Coast of *Coromandel*, and M. *De la Haye's* acting in concert, would have quite and clean overthrown the *Dutch Company*, especially in the Consternation they were in, upon the News they receiv'd from their own Country. But God had ordain'd it otherwise, and it was the *French Fleet*, that, with all its Enterprize, came to nothing.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

The Author employs his Time in receiving Visits from his Acquaintance, and advises concerning his Conduct since the late King's Death. Debauches of the present King, and his Outrages in those Fits of Drunkenness. Reinstatement of the late Prime Minister. Manner of entertaining the King.

I Spent the first Day of my coming to *Ispahan*, and all the next, in receiving Visits from the *Europeans* of the Place, from several *Persians* and *Armenians*, with whom I had contracted a Friendship after my first Journey thither, and with whom I consulted about the Conduct and Management of my Affairs. The Court was very much alter'd from what it was the first Time I saw it, and in the greatest Confusion; almost all the Noblemen belonging to the late King were dead, or in Disgrace. Interest and Favour, were in the Hands of certain young Lords, who had neither Generosity nor Merit. The Prime Minister, nam'd *Cheik Ali can*, had for fourteen Months past been under Disgrace; three of the chief Officers of the Crown discharg'd his Duty: But the worst thing of all for me

me, was, that they talk'd of restoring his Place to him, and reinstating him in the Royal Favour ; for he being on one Hand a great Enemy to the *Christians* and *Europeans*, and on the other, inaccessible, by Recommendations and Presents, and having always made it apparent during the time he was in Office, that he had nothing more at Heart than to enlarge the Treasure of his Master ; I had Reason to fear, that he would hinder the King from Purchasing the Jewels, which I brought by the express Command of the late King his Father, and made according to the Patterns which I had receiv'd from his own Hands : This Consideration made me come to a Resolution immediately of notifying my return to the King ; my difficulty lay in the Choice of an Introduc'tor to the *Nazir*, who is the great and supreme Intendant over the King's Household, his Wealth, his Affairs, and over all those who are employ'd in them ; I mean, who I should pitch upon to give the first Admittance ; I was advis'd by some to *Zerguer bachi*, or chief of the Jewellers, and Goldsmiths in *Persia* ; others propos'd *Mirza Thær* to me, the Comptroller General of the King's Household. I had done better to have trusted to the Conduct of the first, as I found afterwards, but because I had known the Comptroller General a long time, I resolv'd to put my Trust in him.

On

On the 26th, the Superior of the *Capuchins* took the Trouble of going to visit him in my Behalf. I beg'd of him to tell him, that an Indisposition hinder'd me from coming to pay him my Respects, but that the Goodness he had shewn me six Years before, made me take the Liberty of Addressing myself to him, to be presented to the *Nazir*, or Super-intendant, for that I was sure I could not be introduced by a better Hand ; that I most humbly intreated him, to represent to that Minister, the Order which I had receiv'd from the late King, to go into my own Country, and get him some rich Works of Jewels made there, and bring them to him my self, which I had accordingly perform'd in such a Manner, that I durst persuade my self it was not possible to do better. To this I added great Promises of Recompence, which I knew was necessary to be done in such Cases. The Answer I had from this Lord was, That I was welcome, that I might depend upon him, and that he would, to the best of his Power, answer the Expectations I had of his good Offices towards me ; but that I might assure my self, the King had but little Inclination for Jewels, that the Court was very bare of Money, and that to my great Misfortune, the Prime Minister, who was a Man so averse to those sort of Expences, and so disingag'd from all Interest, was again coming into Favour ;

Favour ; that he order'd this to be told me not to discourage me, but to dispose me to sell them cheap, to make a great many Presents, to take a deal of Pains, and have a World of Patience ; that as for the rest, he would notify my Arrival to the *Nazir*, in the best Manner he could, and that I should place my Hopes in the Clemency of God. The *Persians* always conclude their Deliberations with these Words, being as much as to say, that God will give Overtures to those Affairs, which Men are in Pain to bring about with Success.

I at the same time receiv'd a Piece of News, which confirm'd those Advices. This was, that the Day before, the King getting Drunk, as it had been his daily Custom almost for some Years, fell into a Rage against a Player on the Lute, who did not play well to his Taste, and commanded *Nesralibec*, his Favourite, Son to the Governour of *Iriuan*, to cut his Hands off. The Prince in pronouncing that Sentence, threw himself on a Pile of Cushions to Sleep. The Favourite, who was not so Drunk, and knowing no Crime in the condemn'd Person, thought that the King had found none neither, and that this cruel Order was only a transpot of Drunkenness, he therefore contented himself with Reprimanding the Player very severely, in that he did not study to please his Master better ; the King wak'd

wak'd in an Hours time, and seeing the Musician touch the Lute as before, he call'd to Mind the Orders he had given to his Favourite against the Musician, and flying into a great Passion with the young Lord, he commanded the Lord high Steward to cut off the Hands and Feet of them both ; the Lord Steward threw himself at the King's Feet, to implore Mercy for the Favourite ; the King, in the extream Violence of his Indignation and Fury, cry'd out to his Eunucks and his Guards, to execute his Sentence upon all three ; *Cheic-ali-can*, that Grand Vizier who was out of his Post, happen'd to be there, as good Luck would have it, he flung himself at the King's Feet, and embracing them, he beseech'd him to show them Mercy ; the King making a little Pause upon it, say'd to him, *thou art very bold to hope, that I should grant what thou desirest of me, I who can't obtain of thee to resume the Charge of Prime Minijier.* Sir, reply'd the Suppliant, *I am your Slave, I will ever do what your Majesty shall command me.* The King being hereupon pleas'd, Pardon'd all the condemn'd Persons, and next Morning sent a *Calaat* to *Cheic-ali-can* : By that Name they call the Garments which the King presents great Men to do them Honour ; he sent him besides the Garment, a Horse, with a Saddle, and Trappings of Gold, set with Diamonds, a Sword and
Ponyard

Ponyard of the same kind, with the Ink-horn, Letters Patents, and other Marks, which denote the Post of the Prime Minister.

This Lord had been, as I told you before, fourteen Months in Disgrace, and during that time, there was no Prime Minister at all, a thing without Precedent in *Persia*; three of the Principal of the Crown acted in his Room; he went from time to time to Court, the King having neither Banish'd, nor so much as forbid him his own Royal Presence. The Occasion of this Disgrace was, because he would not drink Wine, excusing himself always on Account of his old Age; the Dignity of Prime Minister, the Name of *Cheic*, which he bore, and signifies the same as a Religious, or Saint does with us, and denotes a Man Consecrated to the strictest observance of Religion, and in fine, on Account of the Pilgrimage which he made to *Mecca*, whereby he stood engaged to a greater purity of Life. The King seeing him alone, firm in his Resolution not to drink Wine, us'd him often with very ill Language; he one time went even so far, as to strike him upon that Account, he has caus'd full Glasses of Wine to be thrown in his Face, pour'd down upon his Head, and over all his Cloaths, and in his Fits he us'd to offer him a thousand Indignities of this Nature; but when those Fits were
b over,

over, he, in his cooler Considerations, had an infinite Esteem for him. on the Account of his so wholly dedicating himself to the Interest of the State, for his Virtues, and the vast Qualifications of his Mind: In Reality, he was a mighty wise Minister, full of Wit, and of great Integrity; his Religion is more to be blam'd than his Natural Temper, for the Hardships he deals to the *Christians*: 'Tis her we must accuse for his rigorous Practices against the *Christians*; were it not for the Transports of a blind Zeal, which she inspires into him, the *Christians* would have Reason, as well as the *Mahometans*, to bless his Administration: It is true, even these do not all bless it, because he hinders the King from going into Prodigalities, and from squandring his Treasure, like his Predecessors; and this is seldom pleasing to the Court, which is commonly Poor and Indigent, when the Prince is not Liberal. This Minister was fifty five Years of Age, he was of a good Stature, well Shap'd, and his Face Handsome, as well as his Make; he had the greatest Advantage of Physiognomy in the World, a perpetual Calm, and engaging sweetness reign'd in his Eyes, and throughout his Countenance, and far from perceiving in it any of those Signs of a Mind Occupied, and taken up, which appear in that of most great Ministers; one saw shine there all the Tokens of Tranquility, and of a Mind un-

per-

perplex'd, and that possess'd it self perfectly; so that to behold him without knowing him, one would never have taken him for a Man of Business; those who have had the Honour to be more nearly acquainted with him, and to search into his interior Qualities, speak wonderful Things of his Moderation and Modesty; these Persons assure you, that he has little of Pride in his Mind, and of Presumption in his Heart, as there is of Fierceness in his Look, or of Vanity in his Comportment; this is so much the more to be credited, because he shows no Luxury in his Garb, no Pomp in his House, no Profusion or Prodigality at his Table.

On the 27th, that Minister cloath'd in the Garment that the King had sent him, went to kiss his Feet, and receiv'd afterwards the Compliments of all the Court, upon his being re-instated in the first Employment of the Empire.

On the 30th, he Entertain'd the King; the Entertainment lasted four and twenty Hours; the Prince went thither at eight a Clock in the Morning; all the way, between the Royal Palace, and the Palace of that Minister, was cover'd with Brocards of Gold and Silver, and lined on each Side by his Officers and Domesticks, who made a Lane, each of them holding a Piece of the magnificent Present which he made to the King, which consisted in Stuffs of Wool,
b 2 Silk,

Silk, and Gold; in Services of Gold, Silver, and China, in Bridles for Horses, Saddles, and Houtings, and in Gold and Silver ready Coin'd. When the King was about six Spaces from the Door of his Apartment, the Prime Minister who waited there to receive him, caus'd some thousands of Livres, of Gold, Silver, and Brass, Coin'd, to be thrown at his Feet. This Pompous manner of receiving a Prince, is call'd *Pich endas*; *Pich* signifies before, and *endas* is the Verb, to spread, or to extend. They never make use of this kind of *Pageantry*, but for the Reception of the Sovereign, nor cover the Streets with Stuffs upon any other Occasion. However, 'tis not improper to observe, that they only cover one side of it; the other is well Swept and Water'd, and strew'd with Flowers, especially when the Place and Season will afford them. The Stuffs and the Silver which are thrown on the Ground, are for the King's Footmen. Sometimes the Lord himself, who makes the Feast, buys back the Stuffs: *Chiec-Ali-can* did the same, knowing very well, that they could not sell them for near so much, as he order'd to be given them. This Method of spreading Carpets in the Way for the Passage of Kings, and great Princes, is one of the ancientest Customs in the *East*, and most universally practis'd; they have a Precept or Command for this deliver'd in the *Porans*, which
are

are the first Books, of the Religion, and Learning of the *Brackmans*.

When any Grandee Entertains the King, he invites him singly, leaving to him the Choice of the Company, which he has a Mind to pitch upon. He comes at eight or nine in the Morning, to the Palace where he is invited, which is furnish'd in the most sumptuous Manner possible : As soon as he enters the Door, the Master of the House makes him a Present, which is always very considerable ; the Room into which the King is introduc'd, is ready set out with a magnificent Collation of wet and dry Sweetmeats, of Biskets, Maf-Panes, Sherbets, and all sorts of Liquors, Tart and Sweet ; they Place before his Person, and before the Principal Lords he brings with him, rich Perfuming Pans, that burn till they even offend the Head, and are order'd to be taken away ; mean while the Musicians, and the Women Daucers belonging to the Court, are in a Place hard by, ready whenever the King pleases to be diverted by them ; the King's Musicians are not only the most Skilful, either as to Singing and touching of Instruments, but are commonly the Ablest, and most ingenious Poets in the Kingdom ; they sing their own Works, as it is related of *Homer*, and other *Greek* Poets, who liv'd in his time ; they are for the most Part in Praise of the King, and on several Actions of
b 3 his

his Life, which they are ingenious enough in Flattery to extol, let them be never so worthy of Blame, and Oblivion.

The Songs, this Day were adapted to the Re-establishment of the Minister. I saw one that was full of fine and witty Turns, the Burthen of the Song was this.

*Him set aside, all Men but Equals are ;
Even Sol survey'd the spacious Realms of Air, }
To see if he could find another Star.
A Star, that like the Polar Star could Reign,
And long he sought it, but he sought in Vain.*

An ingenious Allusion to the Title of, *Ivon Medave*, attributed to the Prime Minister, which signifies the Pole of *Persia*. About eleven a Clock they serve up a light Dinner ; all the Meats there are high Season'd, and consist of Pastry Work, Roast Meats, and delicate Ragousts ; whatever is Roasted at these Feasts, is commonly stuff'd after the *German* Manner, as we call it ; after Dinner, the King walks up and down the Apartments and Gardens of the House, or else he Reposes himself, or takes the Diversion of seeing the Horses, of Mounting some of them, drawing the Bow, and such like Exercises ; he likewise if he takes a Fancy to it, goes into the Womens Apartments ; when he goes there, the Master of the House does not follow him, without his express Order, only
the

the Eunuchs of the House Accompany him, and the Master of the House is so far from being Jealous on that score, that he prides and glories in it extremely: Such a Power have Prejudice and Custom over the Minds of that People, who being otherwise Jealous even of their own Brothers, and won't let them set a Foot within their *Seraglios*; yet are they of Opinion, that no greater Honour can ever happen to them, nor any higher piece of good Fortune, than when the King enters into that Place: The Reason they give for it, is, that the Persons of their Kings are Sacred and Sanctified, in a peculiar Manner above the rest of Mankind, and bring along with them wheresoever they come, Happiness and Benediction; you are not however to suppose, that when the King goes into those Places, any Obscenity is committed there; they assure on the contrary, that there never was one Example of this kind; but yet, sometimes the King taking a Fancy to the Beauty or Wit of some young Woman he sees there, desires her of the Master of the House; they are far from refusing him, for they look upon it to be a great Stroak of Fortune, to have a young Creature in the King's *Seraglio*, by whom they may back their Interest, and promote themselves.

About four a-Clock they serve up a Collation of *Fruits*, and as soon as it is Night,

they divert him with Fire Works, Fencers, and Dancers, who are prepared in great numbers. The House, and the Gardens the House looks into, are fill'd with illuminations that represent a thousand different subjects, and are so bright that they exceed the Splendor of the finest Day in its full noon of Glo v. They don't serve up Supper till the King beholds it, and his own Cooks always make it ready, and dress it to the King's taste, according to the orders given by the Master of the Household. *Abas* the great change of this custom, having discover'd too much roguery in it to be endur'd. The head Cooks were never satisfi'd, they never thought they had enough; and always caus'd twice as much to be brought into the Kitchen as was serv'd up to Table. That King settled it as a standing Rule that those who would entertain him, should give his first Master of the Household for preparing the supper only twelve *Tomans*, which amount to four and fifty *Pistoles*. The Master of the Household never sits down to the Feast. he is always standing near the Person of the King to wait upon him, and when he withdraws he reconducts him even to the Palace Royal, in the same manner as he before conducted him from thence. In the *Persian* they call these sorts of Feasts *Magrle*, a word whose proper and primitive Signification, is conversation.

C H A P. III.

The Author sent for to the Nazir concerning the Commission of the late King for Jewels, Character of the Nazir. The Author reads the Contents of a French Letter, in Persian.

TH E first of July the Comptroller General sent for the Superior of the *Capuchins*; it was to ask him after me, and to let me know, that he had spoke of me to the *Nazir*, who besir'd me to come and see him as soon as I could, that he remembered me from the Time of my first Journey thither, and that he knew the occasion of this, and the Commissions the late King had given me, and that he wou'd use his utmost Power to procure me a happy success, as far as it was consistent with the King's Interest.

On the 6th of July, all that I had brought being put in a proper order for being shewn, I went to the *Nazir's* Palace a little before Noon; that was his usual hour of coming back from the King. I had a great desire to carry the Superior of the *Capuchins* along with me as an Interpreter; fearing least I should find a want of *Persian*, to express
my

my self in a discourse of such Importance and likewise, because there are some things, which, in the *Eaji*, are more proper to be deliver'd by a third Person than one's self. I beg'd him to do me that favour, and endeavoured to engage him by all the reasons I was Master of, but to no effect: He excus'd himself, saying, that he went no more among the *Grandees* as he us'd, because they had no farther regard for the *Europeans*: that otherwise he would gladly do me all the service I could desire, having done the same for Persons he had a less respect for. What this good Father said, was true in the bottom; however the true motive of his refusal was, that he believ'd the King wou'd buy nothing of me, I went my self, with only my Companion and two *French Men* the one a Goldsmith, and the other a Watchmaker to the King, who all three of them did not understand one single Word of *Persian*, but the *Turkish* only, which I understood my self too. I had the good luck to find the *Nazir* with very little Company, and in a mighty good Humour. After some compliments, the *Nazir* made us all sit down at the end of the great Parlour directly over against him, at about ten Paces distance, and a little after he sent his Secretary to me, to know if we were the Persons the comptroler General had spoke to him of, I sent him word back, we were the very same. He
took

took notice I made use of no Interpreter to answer for me and he ask'd the Secretary if I spoke the Language of the Country, his Secretary answer'd him that I spoke to him in *Persian*. Thereupon he order'd me to be conducted singly towards him, and to be seated within two Steps of him ; Immediately after, he sai'd you are welcome, which he repeated again two several times, not immediately one after another, but with intervals of about five or six minutes, during which he held a discourse with the Master Huntsman, who sat very near him. Within about a Quarter of an hours Time, he sent an Eunuch to me, to take the Paper I had in my Hand, they were the Patents and Passports of the late King, and the recommendatory Letter of the *Nazir* his Uncle, the translation of which I have set down above. After he had read them all he asked me what things I had brought. I had a Memorandum of them in *Persian* ; he made his Eunuch come to take it of me, for in that Country one must keep in ones Place without stirring from it, and when any body stirs in the presence of a Nobleman, whether he be sitting or standing, they immediately say that's a *Fool* or a *Frenchman*, the reason of it is, because they have observ'd that the *French* or *Europeans* have naturally a motion or Gesticulation with them. The *Nazir* having perus'd the Memorandum, told me the King should

should see it, and that he would present him a Petition on my account: I rose up in order to retire, but he made me sit down again, and stay dinner with him.

The *Nazir*, or *Superintendent*, is call'd *Negef coulbec*. This is an active Lord, Vigilant, laborious, as dispatchful as can be, and a most excellent Minister. It is impossible sufficiently to commend the easiness of access to him, and the care he takes to dispatch all manner of Business with the utmost expedition. He was first Master of the Household, when his Uncle the late *Superintendent* died, who leaving no Children behind him his post was confer'd upon his Nephew: His Family is numerous; He has five Brothers, and as many Sons, all Men grown, but as yet very indifferently settled in the World; which is some sort of an excuse for his insatiable desire after Riches. He takes every where where he can do it with privacy and safety; and if he were not restrain'd thro' fear of the King the World could not have produc'd a greater Extortioner: Setting a-side that Spirit of avarice, he might be accounted a very honest Man.

When I left that Lord's House I went to pay a visit to *Zerquer bachi* who is head of all the Gold smiths and Jewelers in the Kingdom and intendant over all the Works of Gold and Silver, and precious Stones, that are made for the King. He puts the
price

price upon every Thing that is Sold at Court, out of which he has a Right of two *per Cent.* brocage, and one *per Cent.* for what is sold of those kinds throughout the Town. It is easy to judge from hence, the indispensable necessity I was under, of obtaining his favour in this Affair. I asked his Pardon for not being so diligent as I ought to have been, in seeking the opportunity to pay my respects to him, telling him among other things, that I knew very well the success of my business depended upon him, he answer'd me, that I had done very well to have shewn him in private, what I had brought for the King, before I had seen the *Nazir*, because we might have talked about the price, by which means he could better have told how to have set the value. In the mean time that it was never the worse as it happen'd, for the *Nazir* and he were very good Friends, and repos'd a mutual confidence in each other. That for his part he had never given any cause for Merchants to complain of his proceedings, and that he would give me none, nor be any hindrance to me in selling the whole. I thank'd him heartily, assuring him at the same time, that I would not fail of making him some acknowledgments. That's a thing one must never forget to have at ones Tongues end in *Persia*. I take no present from any body reply'd he, for the services I
do

do them, I am an honest Man, and am content with my right of two *per Cent.* out of what is sold. After he had said that, he caus'd me to be serv'd with Coffee, and some Flowers, and entertain'd me till it was pretty late at Night. The *Grandees* in *Persia* are, more ready and officious than in any Place of the World to forward the Communication of those Things that will please the King; but you must be very careful who you choose for your Introduc'tor; for if I had Address'd my self first to this Man for Example, the *Nazir*, who is the King's Overseer, that is to say his great Minister, Principal Agent, and Superintendant, would have highly Resented it, pretending that every thing that was to be laid before the King, ought to come directly to him first.

On the 7th, at three in the Afternoon, I ordered all my Jewels that were specified in a Memorandum I had given the *Nazir* the Day before; to be carried in a Box to his House; he was with the King, who had sent for him; and return'd about five a Clock; the President of the Divan, one of the Principal Officers of the Crown, the Head of the Goldsmiths, and several other Lords of the Court were with him; he view'd them all, Piece by Piece, and compar'd them with the Memorandum, and putting them all into the Box again, he affix'd his own Seal to the Lock, and sent it to his Wardrobe. All this he did
with

with a negligent Air, and a very great Indifference; but that was affected, as well by Reason of the Company then Present, as that I might take no Advantage, by discerning in the least which he thought to be the Finest and best done: I was not at all discourag'd at his Acting thus, knowing the Manner of the *Persians* on such Occasions, and with what Ease and Address, they fashion, and comport themselves according as their Interest requires. After that Lord had dispatch'd some Affairs, he enquir'd of me, if I had brought no more than what he had seen; I answered him, that I had still some Jewels left by me, which I did not think worth the King's seeing; *bring me*, said he, *all that you have a Mind to sell in this Kingdom; His Majesty must have the first Sight of them, and if you act otherwise, you will create your self Trouble, and me to*; I answer'd, that what I had left, I would bring the next Morning without fail.

Upon that Day being the eighth, I went to this Lord's House at seven a Clock in the Morning, he was at that time gone abroad; one of his Officers attended, and conducted me by his Order, into an Apartment of the Royal Palace, which is call'd *Chiracone*, or the House of Wine; he was there in Council with the Prime Ministers and several other Grandees of the Court; I stay'd there near upon three Hours, walking up and
down

down the Fine Garden, in the middle whereof this fine Apartment, is Scituated; after which, I was conducted into a Parlour, that lay open to the Garden, and was so low, that it lay almost level with the Ground; the Grand *Vizier* and the *Nazir* were sitting there, and leaning upon the Rails; a Crowd of Officers and servants were without, standing on one side, and ready at a proper distance, to receive their Orders; those who led me up to the Rails, bid me make my Bows, and go in; the Prime Minister as soon as I had Saluted him, ask'd me where I had learnt to dress so exactly after the *Persian* Manner, and to speak the Language; after those obliging Questions, they made me walk into the Parlour, and sit down near the great Lords, but in the Middle, and out of Rank; the *Nazir* ask'd me, if I understood how to read all the Languages of *Europe*, and at the same time presented me a Letter, folded and sealed after our Manner with the Superscription in *French*, desiring to know if I could Interpret it to him; I returned for Answer, that I could give him the Sense of it clearly; upon that he bid me open it, I did so, and read it in *Persian*; the Prime Minister was very attentive to my reading; as soon as I had read it, he rose up and went away.

The *Naizir* stay'd, and asked me where the Jewels I had still left by me, were, I produced

duced them to him, and he kept them, causing them to be set down on the Memorandum; he afterwards said to me with an Air of Chearfulness, *did you perceive the Favour I did you in presenting you to the Grand Vizier? I held him in Discourse on the Subject of your coming, added he, and have also mentioned you to his Majesty; you will by the Grace of God, meet with a favourable Reception.* He went out after having commanded a Secretary to take down in *Persian* the Letter I had been reading: It was from a Captain of the *French East-India Company*, who was by Accident, invested with the Character of an Ambassador, in the Affairs of that Company. I believe my Readers will not be sorry, if before, I relate the Subject thereof, I insert some Particulars concerning the Establishment of that Company.

Few People are Ignorant of the Time, which was in the Year, 1664, a Time Memorable in *France*, for the many fine Constitutions for the Improvements of the Arts and Sciences, which the Bounty of the Prince had caused to Flourish more there than in any part of the World. Mounſieur *Colbert*, a famous, clear-headed, and vigilant Minister, whom the King made use of for this great End, had above all Things, the Manufactures, and Commerce, most at Heart: That to the *East-Indies* was resolved upon first, being the most Important; but because
there

there was no setting it on Foot, without Foreigners, who were well Skill'd therein, and had practis'd it upon the Places ; it was resolv'd to engage the *Hollanders* as much as possible in it, cost what it would. Mounſieur *de Thou*, who had been ſome Years before Ambaſſador in *Holland*, was intruſted with the Affair, and made Director of the Company ; ſeveral Subjects were engaged in *Holland*, who had ſerved the *Dutch* Company in the *Indies*, but not in ſo great a Number, nor of ſo great a Capacity. as the largeneſs of the Salaries gave Room to hope for ; *M. Carron* excepted, who was an illuſtrious Man, and had a deep Inſight into Commerce. 'Tis from him I had the Pieces of Hiſtory that I am going to Relate, and which I have Tranſlated almoſt Word for Word, from the *Dutch*, the Language in which he wrote only at that Time, being then unacquainted with the *French*,

C H A P

C H A P. IV.

Letters from Mr. Carron to Mr. d' Thou, Count of Meslay, &c. Director of the East Company of France. with Instructions concerning the Commerce. Amplification on the foregoing Subject.

To his Excellency Monsieur d' Thou,
Count of Meslay, &c. Director of the
East Company of France.

S I R,

I have with Admiration heard of the Enterprize of our Great Monarch, touching the Commerce of the *East-Indies*, which is the same Design that *Harry the Great*, of glorious Memory, had concerted, and resolv'd upon, in the Year 1609, and which began to be put in Execution by a Merchant of *Amsterdam*, whose Name was *Isaac le Maire*, and who was a very Able and Mighty Experienced Man, when the Death of his Majesty put a Stop to it: It is much to the King's Glory, that he is desirous of executing a Design, form'd by his Illustrious Ancestors above fifty Years ago, which, if it had taken due Effect in those Days, had rendered *France* at present Mistress of those Places, where the Spices are gathered, and

C 2

which

' which are now in the Possession of the
 ' *Dutch* Company ; but were at that Time,
 ' in the Hands of the Natives of that Country.
 ' It was in the Year 1615, that this *Dutch*
 ' Company appropriated to it self, the Island
 ' of *Amboyna*, where the *Clove* grows : They
 ' did the same with *Benda*, that produces the
 ' Tree which bears *Nutmegs*, and *Mace*, in the
 ' Year 1612, and it has since, in ten Years
 ' time, Conquered that part of the Island of
 ' *Ceylan*, where the *Cinnamon* grows, begin-
 ' ning from the Year 1635, to the Year 1644,
 ' inclusively. This Company, with these
 ' Spices, carry on such a Trade in the *Indies*,
 ' and in *Europe*, as brings in such immense
 ' Gains, that if it were to have no other
 ' Trade but that alone, it would be sufficient
 ' to keep and maintain it, as on the Contrary,
 ' if it were deprived of the Possession of those
 ' Spices, it could not even Subsist, much less
 ' Aggrandize it self, Experience shewing suf-
 ' ficiently in the *Portuguese*, and the *English*,
 ' that the Commerce of *Pepper*, *Linnen*, *Silks*,
 ' *Salt Petre*, *Indigo* *Druggs*, and of all other
 ' Things which they bring into *Europe*, do
 ' not yield them any considerable Profit.

' This makes me conjecture (without Pre-
 ' judice to the Opinion of more able and
 ' penetrating Persons) that the *French* Com-
 ' pany will not be able to make any Profits
 ' that will be worthy it's Establishment : It
 ' will not be intirely deprived thereof, but far
 ' from

‘ from being to be compared with those of
‘ the *Dutch* Company, they will be perhaps
‘ less than those of the *English* at present, or
‘ even of the *Portuguese*. These two Nations
‘ have improved for a long Time their Trade
‘ in the *Indies*, out of their mutual Emulation,
‘ and that of the *Hollanders*, who deal with
‘ them both, wheresoever they are: Now the
‘ *French* will come last, and make the fourth
‘ Nation in the Market; it will be forced to
‘ take the same way as the others in its Com-
‘ merce, having no other, and so in all
‘ likelihood will not succeed any better than
‘ they.

‘ There is another Inconveniency, which
‘ is, that the main part of the Trade must be
‘ carried on by Gold and Silver, carried An-
‘ nually out of *France* to the *Indies*, unless
‘ there be a free and open Commerce to *China*
‘ and *Japan*, which is what I would chiefly
‘ and principally aim at. The Means of ob-
‘ taining it, is to send an honourable Embassy
‘ in the Name of the King, to the great *Cham*
‘ of *Tartary*, and King of *China*, and afterwards
‘ to the Emperor of *Japan*. There is a great
‘ deal of Likelihood, and much Room to
‘ hope, that that Commerce would be obtai-
‘ ned of them, provided the Envoys carried
‘ themselves with Prudence and Sagacity;
‘ their Instructions ought to be drawn up with
‘ good Advice, and a great deal of Attention,
‘ and they must be very punctually followed,

‘ and Executed : The Trade in *Japan* should
‘ likewise be carried on by *Frenchmen* of the
‘ Reformed Religion (no Notice is taken of
‘ the Religion of the *Europeans* in any other
‘ Place of the *Indies*, excepting only in *Japan*)
‘ and if contrary Measures be taken, there is
‘ Reason to fear, that the Trade of *Japan*
‘ cannot be obtained at all, or at least not to
‘ be kept up : It has been seen already, what
‘ has happened to the *Spaniards* and *Portu-*
‘ *gueze*, for endeavouring contrary to the
‘ Prohibitions made against them, to Plant
‘ and Propagate the *Roman* Religion, among
‘ the *Japoneze* : It was for that, they were
‘ Banished, the *Spaniards* in the Year 1616,
‘ and the *Portugueze* in the Year 1629, upon
‘ the Penalty of their Lives and Effects, never
‘ to return thither again ; in Opposition to
‘ which, the *Portugueze* coming back, upon an
‘ Imagination of having that Arrest repealed
‘ by Instances and Intreaties, all the Embassy,
‘ and the Retinue were put to Death, to the
‘ Number of 95, and the Ship with all that
‘ was in it burnt, and this happened in the
‘ Year 1640 : It is therefore necessary, that
‘ the Trade should be carried on by Persons
‘ who are not *Romans*, and likewise that the
‘ Vessels which go thither, should be free
‘ from all Marks and Tokens of the *Romish*
‘ Religion.

‘ If the *French* Company obtains the Com-
‘ merce of *Japan*, she will do very well, and
‘ send home great Profits ; and in that Case,
‘ a Cargo must every Year be sent to *China*,
‘ the greater part of which must consist of
‘ Silver. From *China* another Cargo must be
‘ taken, of Silks and Stuffs, according to the
‘ Quantities prescrib’d, which ought to be to
‘ the Value of between four or five Millions
‘ of *Livres*. This Cargo will be sold off at
‘ *Japan* for ready Money, at 60 or 70 *per*
‘ *Cent.* Profit ; and out of this Product, a Fund
‘ must be drawn for a new Purchase in *China*,
‘ to the Value of four Millions, and the rest
‘ may be employ’d in the *Indies*, to purchase
‘ Pepper and Cloths, with other Merchan-
‘ dizes that are wanted ; the Silks and Silk
‘ Stuffs of *Bengall* and *China*, may be bought
‘ up for *Europe*, for they yield at least *Cent.*
‘ *per Cent.* *China* can furnish what Quantity
‘ one will thereof, and *Japan* will consume
‘ as much of them as shall be carry’d thither ;
‘ and this is the only Trade that can Enrich
‘ the *French* Company, provided it be freely
‘ granted them, wisely managed, and second-
‘ ed with the Blessing of Heaven.

‘ The *Portugueze*, when they were in the
‘ Flower of their Commerce, carry’d away
‘ Yearly from *Japan*, ten Millions in Specie.
‘ The *Chinese* at the same time carried away
‘ twelve, and the *Hollanders* three. This, in
‘ all, amounts to twenty-five Millions, and

yet, notwithstanding these vast Draughts and Exportations, money was not a whit the scarcer at *Japan*, nor the Silks a jot the dearer in *China*. It is true, that great Empire was ruin'd by the War and Devastations of the *Tartars*; But in my Opinion, it will be always very easy to lay out there four or five Millions from Year to Year more. This Trade would save the sending of Silver Yearly from *France* to the *Indies*, either for the Purchase of what must be Imported into *Europe*, or to supply what may be wanting sometimes in the Gain of the three Millions propos'd to be got every Year at *Japan*; unless the Commerce of *China* increas'd in its Capital Stock in such a manner, that the Gain expected, always exceeded the Sum propos'd; and there would be no need of carrying Silver out of *France* on any other account than the *South-Sea Trade*, which is not very considerable. Till the Motion of this Wheel of Commerce can be compassed, the *French Company* ought to be very attentive to its Affairs in the beginning, and to have a great Capital Stock to carry on the Traffick from *China* to *Japan*, for the *South-Sea Trade*, for the Expences, and the Advances which are necessary to establish itself in the Places of Trade, and in the Staples. The Company has need of one near the Equinoctial Line, for the Trade of the *North*; and of one or two on the
Coast

Coast of the *Indies* for the *South-Sea* Trade. As for that of the *North*, the Isle of *Banca* appears to be the most Commodious. It may be had by way of Purchase from the Great *Matram*, King of the Island of *Java*. An Ambassador should be sent to him on that Account. This Purchase would be a very advantagious thing to the Company, because in all Likelihood, the Pepper, Rice, and all sorts of Provisions for the Mouth, would flow in there from all Sides, and in greater abundance than to *Batavia*, whither all those Commodities have constantly been carried hitherto, and because the *Chinese* (a People so serviceable and so tractable) who inhabit the Territory of *Batavia*, would infallibly come, and fling themselves among the *French*, to free themselves from the insupportable Charges and Taxes, put upon them for some Years last past in that Place, by the *Dutch* Company, who treat them with extreme Severity and Rigour.

The Staples, or publick Marts on the *Indian* Coast, for the *South Sea* Trade, might be on the Coast of *Malabar*, and the other on the Coast of *Coromandel*. There is upon this last Coast, a Place called *St. Thomas*, which may be had without any great Difficulty. In the mean time, as the establishment of Trade in the *South* is a great and important Enterprize, and the Success of it depends on a wise and prudent Conduct, it
is

is necessary to send out of Hand, a Deputation to the Great *Mogul*. This Deputation will settle things in those Quarters, and upon their Arrival, the Commerce will be free and open to *Surat*, to the Coast of *Coromandel*, and to *Bengall*, the three principal Places of Traffick. Pepper and *Cassalinga* will, without trouble be bought, and abundantly enough on the Coast of *Malabar*, especially if the Price thereof be rais'd ever so little.

As for what remains, the Execution of all this must be committed to Persons who are already well Experienc'd, as well in the Mystery of Commerce, as in the Knowledge of those Countries: They will instruct the *French*, lessen the Labour to them, and put them in a Method, after which, these will be sufficiently able to carry on the Trade, with Prudence and good Conduct. One might speak or write more at large upon this Head, and set down the Places in particular, where it may be proper for them to settle and establish themselves; what I have here said being no more than a Project or Plan, upon which I think the *French* Company ought to build, and on which they may reasonably expect the blessing of Heaven; to whose Protection I recommend your Excellency, and remain, &c.

Paris, May

29, 1665.

An

An Amplification on the foregoing Subject.

HAVING had the Honour on the 31st of
the last Month, to be entertain'd by
M. Colbert and your Excellency, on the most
proper Methods to set the Trade of the
Company on Foot, I was told, among other
things, what I had heard before in *Holland*,
that the Company design'd to People the
Island of *Madagascar* by the Assistance of His
Majesty, to send a great number of Soldiers
and Workmen thither, and make use of it
as a Staple, and publick Mart: This in re-
ality, is a well-concerted Design. The
Ships that will be sent to the *Indies*, may
readily and plentifully furnish themselves
in that Island with Provisions, and in all
likelihood, the Company will reap the other
Advantages which she promises herself there-
from, and which never having been look'd
after by the *Dutch Company*, are neither
known to them nor myself. However,
with humble Submission to your Excel-
lency's Opinion, the Island of *Madagascar*
is a little remote from the Quarters of the
South, to wit, from the Coasts of *India*,
Malabar, *Bengall*, *Surat*, *Coromandel*, and
Persia; and it seems to me, that a more
proper Place might be found out towards
those Quarters of the *South*, which might
be better and the more easily Fortify'd, by
reason of its being but a small Extent.

: My

‘ My Lord *Colbert* gave me likewise to un-
 ‘ derstand, that the Company’s Design is to
 ‘ establish its Commerce first of all in the
 ‘ Quarter of the *South*, which is exactly my
 ‘ Opinion, and I believe they cannot take a
 ‘ better Method of beginning it, than by send-
 ‘ ing two little Vessels of 400 Ton each, to
 ‘ *China* and *Japan*, to desire the liberty of
 ‘ Commerce, and to set it on foot after they
 ‘ have got Leave, for that will take up two
 ‘ Years at least, if not more.

‘ These Ships, besides the King’s Envoys,
 ‘ and the Presents for those Countries, should,
 ‘ for the opening of Trade, have a little
 ‘ Cargo, consisting of Cloaths, Shalloons,
 ‘ Tammins, Serges, Perpetuans, and of all
 ‘ other kinds of Serges, of Red, Purple, Car-
 ‘ nation, Crimson, Sky-blue, and other such-
 ‘ like Colours, with a few Black, a few White
 ‘ and Pearl Colour, to the Value in all of
 ‘ about 50000 *Livres*. They should be like-
 ‘ wise laden with about 25000 *Livres* worth
 ‘ of yellow Amber, and such Iron Ware as
 ‘ there is a demand for in *China* and *Japan*,
 ‘ and which the *Hollanders* have sent there
 ‘ for some Years; other 25000 *Livres* worth
 ‘ of Pepper, which the Vessels may buy on
 ‘ the Coast of *Malabar*; and 250000 *Livres*
 ‘ in ready Money.

‘ This Sum, which amounts to 350000
 ‘ *Livres* shall be lay’d out in Silks and Silk
 ‘ Stuffs, that are proper for *France*, and not
 ‘ for

‘ for *Japan*, because it is not lawful to carry any
‘ Merchandizes to *Japan*, till after having had
‘ Audience of the Emperor, and obtain’d leave
‘ to Traffick. It is therefore proper, that the
‘ Vessel which goes first to *Japan*, should go
‘ empty, and serve only for His Majesty’s
‘ Embassy, without being laden either with
‘ Merchandizes or Merchants. There is not
‘ a Place in the World where Policy and the
‘ point of Honour are more scrupulously ob-
‘ serv’d. They are not so nicely kept up in
‘ the other parts of the *Indies*. The Liberty
‘ of Trading to *China* and *Japan*, will be a
‘ very good thing for the Company. That
‘ of *Japan* may be negotiated with all they
‘ shall bring to *China*, as the Silks, and Silk
‘ Stuffs of *Bengall* and *Tunquin*, and with a
‘ Stock of all kinds of Woolen Stuffs Manu-
‘ factur’d in *France*.

‘ The King’s Presents to the Emperors of
‘ *China* and *Japan*, shall consist of all sorts of
‘ Fire-Arms, even the most curious the Arse-
‘ nal can afford; of Superfine Cloaths, the
‘ most exquisite in their Kinds that are to be
‘ met with; the best of Serges, and some rich
‘ Brocaded Silks. They must be given to un-
‘ derstand that all these are the Product of
‘ the Country. There may be also some
‘ things that are rare for their Use, and for
‘ their Invention. Among other things, there
‘ must be in the Present for *Ispahan*, three of
‘ the new invented Engines for the extingui-
‘ shing of Fire. They may be had at *Amster-*
‘ *dam*,

‘*dam*, and will be lik’d at *Japan*, because the
‘Houses there are are very subject to Fires:
‘Moreover three Marble Pieces made in the
‘form of Basons, with the Arms of the Em-
‘peror of *Japan* carv’d on the Borders of
‘them. The Bason should be white Marble,
‘the other red Marble, and the third black
‘and White Marble. They make use of such
‘Basons as these *Japan* to wash their Hands in,
‘and they have no other sort of Marble there,
‘but of a darkish green Colour, intermingl’d
‘with a brown. They must be like the Fi-
‘gure that is in the Margin, and must be
‘carefully cas’d up in Wooden Boxes, to
‘prevent all Accidents: No Difficulty ought
‘to be made in taking this Trouble, and be-
‘ing at this Expence for *Japan*, because Fo-
‘reigners pay no Duties or Customs for all
‘their Merchandizes, whether Imported, or
‘Exported, let the Merchandizes be ever so
‘Rich and Wealthy: They are only obliged
‘to go once every Year and pay Homage to
‘the King and his Ministers, and make them
‘some Presents, little in themselves, but pro-
‘portion’d to the Trade they have there.
‘This Visit is an Honour to Foreign Nati-
‘ons, because the Ships of the Empire are
‘oblig’d to do the same thing. But this Visit,
‘and these Annual Presents, shall not be
‘made in the Name of the King, but in the
‘Name of the Subjects Trading to *Japan*.

‘ The

‘ The Letters to these Emperors must be
‘ writ in Characters of Gold, not upon Parch-
‘ ment, but upon large thick Paper, the finest
‘ and smoothest that can be got. The Letter
‘ must be put in a Gold Box set with Dia-
‘ monds, and the Box inclos’d in a square
‘ Purse made of very rich Cloth of Gold,
‘ and stitch’d together with Gold Wire: The
‘ Purse must be put into a Silver Box of the
‘ same Form, made exactly of a right Size,
‘ to hold it, and Engrav’n on both sides with
‘ Chase work. And this Silver Box at last,
‘ must be put into a little Box of Wood pret-
‘ tily Vein’d and Polish’d; in short, the finest
‘ that can be got. The Letter must necessa-
‘ rily be Embellish’d with all this Finery;
‘ and as to the Shape of it, it must be of a
‘ large Size, and the whole length of the Pa-
‘ per; and care must be taken not to fold it
‘ up, so as the Top and Bottom shall over-
‘ lap.

‘ Ample and precise Instructions must be
‘ given to the Envoy, and he be engag’d to
‘ follow them with utmost exactness every
‘ thing wholly depending upon his Behaviour
‘ and Conduct. This may be observ’d in the
‘ Embassies made to *Japan*; one on the part
‘ of the King of *Spain*, by two Knights of
‘ the *Golden Fleece*, in the Year 1624; and
‘ the other on the part of the *Dutch* Compa-
‘ ny, in the Year 1628; and likewise in the
‘ Embassy on the part of the same Company
‘ to

to *China*, in the Year 1656. Audience was not given either to the *Spanish* or *Dutch* Ambassadors at *Japan*; and to these last mention'd, nothing was granted in *China*: The Cause of this was their own Wilfulness, in acting as their own Fancy led them, and departing from their Instructions. The Ecclesiasticks of the Romish Religion are much esteem'd and held in Consideration at the Court of *China*; they may give a great Helping-hand to the Business of the *French* Company, and put it in a good way. But to proceed; as on one Hand the Negotiation is difficult, and on the other, the Trade Winds must be exactly taken for the Voyage, the delay of a Month, or of twenty Days only in this Occurrence, carries with it the loss of a Year. And as it may moreover happen, that the Negotiation may flag, and be retarded in those Courts, by Accidents either of the Indisposition or Death of the King, and by others that are impossible to be foreseen, it is extremely necessary to be expeditious; and your Excellency, without doubt, sees very clearly, that the sooner the Work is undertaken the better, to the end we may Sow at leisure, in order to Reap afterwards the more plentiful Harvest; for before we can receive the expected and desired Fruit and Advantage, we must reckon that a great deal of time will slip away in spite of our Teeth. It is
entirely

entirely my Opinion, that if the Trades of *China* and *Japan* succeed according to our wishes, they will yield a much greater profit, than that of all the *South*. There is a great quantity of Brass at *Japan*, which may be had at six Pence or seven Pence a Pound at most: This may serve for Ballast in the Ships appointed to return, and be sold here at fifteen Pence a Pound.

The Envoy who goes to *China*, should put into Port, in the River of *Nanquin*, Situated between 30, and 31 Degrees of *North* Latitude; one may there Sail with a fair Wind and full Sails, within fourteen Leagues of the Town. It would be better to put into Port, in the River of *Pekin*, for it is higher and nearer to the Court, but then it is not so deep. The last Ambassador of the *Holland* Company not knowing where he had best to Land, went and cast Anchor at *Canton*, Situated towards the twentieth Degree, but unluckily enough, because *Canton* is a Province that is full of *Tartars*: However, it is a Country, where, it seems, one may make a considerable Sale of Woollen-Stuffs, a Thing fit to be observ'd hereafter.

To carry on this Trade of *China* and *Japan*, which is in Effect so Profitable and Necessary, and of the Countries of the *Malays*, and of all the *Isles*, and particularly of the *Moluccas* on the Coast of *Ceram*, and the Quarters depending thereon, and where

‘ grows the Pepper of *Bantum*, *Palibang*,
‘ *Jambay*, *Benjarmassing*, *Solor*, and *Timor*,
‘ with all Places Scituated to the *West*. To
‘ carry on this Trade, I say, it will be very
‘ Necessary to pitch upon, and fix a general
‘ Rendezvous, or general Place of Meeting,
‘ which cannot be better chosen than in the
‘ Isle of *Bancha*. The *Dutch* Company has
‘ repented a thousand Times, their not hav-
‘ ing fortified this Island, and for not having
‘ made it the Capital of its Residence, and of
‘ its Forces, and that by Reason of the great
‘ Wars, and Seiges which it has Sustain’d in
‘ *Batavia*, against the King of *Bantam*, on the
‘ one side, and against the King of Grand *Ma-*
‘ *taram* on the other, who will never be at
‘ Peace, or at rest. There are very fine and
‘ good Places in the Isle of *Banca*, for the
‘ bringing Ships to Anchor, and for building
‘ and refitting them ; the Wood proper for
‘ that Purpose may be had from the Coast of
‘ *Java*; and from thence, and from several
‘ other Places, may be fetch’d all the Mate-
‘ rials necessary for the Work-houses. It will
‘ be requisite to build Lodgments there, and a
‘ Fortrefs, in order to be in Safety. The Isle
‘ of *Banca* is almost covered over with Wood;
‘ it will be proper to cut down one part of the
‘ Wood, to grub up and clear the Ground,
‘ and Plant some Thousands of *Cocoa-Trees* ;
‘ this *Cocoa-Tree* is extreamly useful, and brings
‘ in a great Profit. The Company will find
‘ in

‘ in Time the Goodness of that Island, in re-
‘ gard of its Scituation, and of all Advantages
‘ that may be drawn from it. Experienc’d
‘ Officers, and Persons of Merit, should be
‘ establish’d there. There is at present at *Am-*
‘ *sterdam* one *Vandermuyden* who was Coun-
‘ fellow in ordinary in the *Indies*, and Gover-
‘ nour of *Ceylan*. Next Summer is expected
‘ there one *Coyet*, who likewise was a Coun-
‘ fellow in the *Indies* and Governour of *Far-*
‘ *mosa*; these two Men would be of great
‘ service to the Company. Besides these,
‘ there is in *Holland* one *Dennis des Maitres*,
‘ who has serv’d the *Dutch* Company in
‘ Quality of a Merchant, and there are some
‘ Pilots very well skill’d in the *Indian Seas*,
‘ who know the Coasts and the Tides, and the
‘ dangerous Places; it is upon the Experience
‘ of such Men, the preservation of Ships fre-
‘ quently depends. It will be highly necessary
‘ to draw over some of these sorts of People,
‘ and to be furnish’d for that long Voyage,
‘ with People who have been it several times;
‘ because as one ought not to give a power-
‘ ful Enemy Battle, without Courageous Sol-
‘ diers and good experienc’d Officers; so
‘ neither must one go on so great an Enter-
‘ prize, or hope for any good Success without
‘ one has Directors and Managers, endow’d
‘ with Capacity and Experience. I have been
‘ told some time ago, that the Company had
‘ taken into it’s service one *M. de Ligne* a
‘ *Hollander.*

Hollander. He is mighty well acquainted with all the Quarters of the South, and is otherwise a very Able Man. It is much to be desir'd, That the Company would engage many such in their Service, for the advancement of their Affairs; because there are a great many Places in the *Indies*, and all of them of Importance too, where Settlements must be made. I flatter my self, that when they know I am in the Service of the *French* Company, they will more easily come to a Resolution of entering into it themselves.

Great Care must be taken of the Merchandize and Victuals; and a diligent Inspection is requisite, that there be no defect in the Packing up, or in the Casks, otherwise both the one and the other will be spoil'd; and it sometimes happens, that Goods for being Damag'd, will yield no Profit at all; and that the Victuals for being spoil'd, cause Sickness among the Men, and is the Death of many of them; by which Means the Company falls into the inconvenience of a dismounted Horseman. A good Horseman takes particular Care of his Horse and never grudges him Oats: The Company should do the same towards the Seamen and Soldiers, and the rest of the common sort who serve them. It is the Horse that draws the Plough, and there is no doing without him. The *Dutch* Company has learn'd this at its own Cost, and with great
 ' Losse

· Losses, for above fifty Years, which were
requisite to remedy the Defects of its Esta-
· blishment, and to redress every thing. Men
· are dear in the *Indies*, because their Passage
· thither costs a great deal, and there are no
· fresh Men to be found there. The *Indians*
· are by no means proper to Navigate *Euro-*
· *pean* Vessels, and they are the worst of
· Thieves and Murtherers. The *Holland*
· Company would never make use of them.

· It must be diligently observ'd to have all
· the Hogheads and Pipes new to put the
· Water in, and they must be fill'd up and
· refresh'd with new Water once a Week,
· without which the Water turns black, and
· causes great Sickneses. It must likewise be
· observ'd, that all Pipes of Water, Wine,
· Vinegar, Oil, Barrels of Beef, Bacon, and
· in general, all those that are shut up in the
· Hold of the Ship, be strong Casks, and
· bound firm with Iron Hoops. The Wooden
· Hoops are apt to burst in the Heats, and
· then all they contain is lost, of which there
· has been many prejudicial Proofs. Greater
· Care must be still had, that the Anchors,
· Cables, and Cordages, are not weak nor
· damag'd, or too much crowded in the trim-
· ming of the Ship. These Cautions seem
· of little Importance, but yet the want of a
· due Observation of them, may occasion great
· Delays and other Misfortunes, by reason

‘Exploit. The Company ought to take this
‘into their Consideration, and the rather be-
‘cause the Cargoes of these Ships will be
‘Rich, and the Equipages Numerous. I am
‘apt to believe and there is a great likely-
‘hood. that every thing that will be neces-
‘sary for the Equipage of the Ships may be
‘had in *Holland* with the greatest Conveni-
‘ency, and at the easiest Rates.

‘ I have made mention above of the Letters
‘which the King will be pleased to write to
‘the *Indies*: Here follows a Model for that,
‘from His Majesty to the Emperor of *China*.



The

C H A P. V.

The King of France's LETTER to the Emperor of China. His Instructions to his Envoy at the Cham of Tartary's and Emperor of China's Courts. His Voyage from thence to the Indies.

To the Great Emperor of the Eastern and Western Tartaries, King of China, a perpetual Increase of Happiness, and Long Life is wished, by the King of France and Navarr.

‘ I Have been inform'd to my great Joy, of
‘ the Augmentation of your Empire, and
‘ the Triumphs you have had over your
‘ Enemies for some Years past. For me,
‘ who tread in the Steps of my Ancestors,
‘ Kings of my Kingdoms, ever Glorious
‘ Princes, Renown'd throughout the whole
‘ World, I have a peculiar inclination to
‘ enter into an Acquaintance with your Ma-
‘ jesty, who are Famous in all the Parts of
‘ the Universe: It is this has led me to of-
‘ fer you my best Affections, and to let you
‘ know the Desire I have of giving all pos-
‘ sible Content to Your Majesty. I send ex-
‘ pressly for this End to Your Majesty, the
‘ Bearer of this Letter N. N. my Envoy,

' with the Presents herein set down, which
 ' are all Tokens of my hearty Affection :
 ' They consist in I do assure
 ' Your Majesty I shall be extreamly pleas'd,
 ' that there is any any thing in my King-
 ' doms, which may prove agreeable to you ;
 ' and there is nothing which I would not
 ' willingly do, to keep up a long Corre-
 ' spondence and Alliance, between your Ma-
 ' jesty's Kingdoms and my own. It is with
 ' this View, that I beg your Majesty to
 ' grant my Subjects free Access, and open
 ' Trade, with the Subjects of your Domi-
 ' nions, without any Hindrance or Molesta-
 ' tion. I open, with all my Heart, every
 ' Port of mine to them, to the end that
 ' your Majesty may cause every thing to be
 ' transported which will be useful and pro-
 ' per for your Service.

Written in my Palace the Louvre.

(L. S.) The Great Seal.

At Paris,

The King

LOUIS.

Instructions

Instructions to N. N. Envoy of the King of France, to the Great Cham, Emperor of Tartary, and King of China. According To which he shall conduct himself in the Execution of those Orders which have been given him.

‘ HIS Majesty having accepted and ap-
‘ prov’d the most humble Proposals,
‘ and most earnest Prayers, which have been
‘ offer’d him by the Directors of the *East-*
‘ *India* Company, to assist and favour their
‘ Commerce with his Royal Protection; and
‘ these Directors having in particular repre-
‘ sented the Desire they have to establish
‘ their Trade in *China*, if Liberty was grant-
‘ ed them by the King of the Country; His
‘ Majesty has thought fit to cause it to be
‘ ask’d by an express Deputation, that it may
‘ the more easily be obtain’d of the King of
‘ *China*, and with greater Advantages; and
‘ likewise thereby to give more Weight and
‘ Credit to the Commerce of the Company.
‘ It is with this Design, His Majesty has made
‘ choice of your Person. to send you in His
‘ Name to the King of *China* with His Royal
‘ Letter, and the Presents which are menti-
‘ on’d in it. This you shall present with all
‘ sorts of Respect and Reverence, according
‘ to the Manner and Customs, which will be
‘ shown you, when you come to *China*.

‘ You

‘ You shall make your Voyage from hence
‘ to the *Indies*, according to the Instru-
‘ ctions that will be given you by the Com-
‘ pany, and you shall from thence pursue it
‘ on to *China*, when they give you their Or-
‘ ders. You shall do your endeavours to go
‘ to the Height of *Macau*, a Place belonging
‘ to the *Portugueze*, situated between the 19th
‘ and 20th Degree of Latitude under the Nor-
‘ thern *Tropick*. You shall there make dili-
‘ gent Search after *Chinese* Pilots, and do all
‘ you can to win and draw into your Com-
‘ pany, all those who know, by Experience,
‘ the Coast of China, and who shall be able
‘ to conduct you to the River of *Nanquin*.
‘ If it should not prove possible for you to
‘ meet with any such Persons, or not enough
‘ to be able to rely on them for the Success
‘ of your Voyage, you shall go higher up,
‘ as far as the 23d Degree, towards the Ri-
‘ ver of *Chinchen*. The *Hollanders* will, in
‘ all appearance, be Establish’d there. You
‘ will infallibly meet in your way, with se-
‘ veral *Dutch* Ships, and *Chinese* Vessels, who
‘ will furnish you with the Means of pursu-
‘ ing your Course with Safety to the said
‘ River *Nanquin*, for there are always People
‘ on Board those Ships, whom you may Dis-
‘ course with about it.

‘ It may happen, that before you get to
‘ the height of *Macau*, you may be met with
‘ by the *Ships* of that famous Pirate *Jacquun*.
‘ It is said, that he makes his retreat in the
‘ great Island of *Anyan*, and has newly got
‘ another powerful *Fleet* at *Sea*. You must
‘ take care not to sail in a straight line where
‘ you see many sail, or to wait for them if
‘ they are making towards you ; you must
‘ avoid them as much as possible, still how-
‘ ever continuing your *Course*. You must
‘ not be afraid of one, two, or three, *Ships*,
‘ but nevertheless you must be always upon
‘ your guard, and in a readiness to receive
‘ the *Enemy* in good order, upon all *Occasi-*
‘ *ons*. If you meet with *Dutch* *Ships* and
‘ want *Amunition*, you may ask it of them,
‘ and say only we are going *Northward* to see
‘ what can be done in those *Parts*.

‘ Being arriv’d by *God’s* *Assistance* in the
‘ *River* of *Nanquin*, you shall sail with all
‘ possible *circumspection*, to avoid ill acci-
‘ dents. The *Sands* will stop you at about
‘ fifteen *Leagues* from the *Town*, and there
‘ the *Chinese* *Fishermen* will come in great
‘ numbers, you shall hire one of them, him
‘ you shall judge most proper, and send him
‘ with two of your common *People*, to the
‘ *Governour* of the *Town*, with a letter in
‘ *French*, and the translation of it in *Chinese*.
‘ You shall send him word, that in that *Place*
‘ there is an *Envoy* arriv’d from the *King* of
‘ *France*,

France. with Letters and Presents for the great Emperor of *China*; and desire, that he would dispatch somebody to Court, to learn the State of Affairs, that you may afterwards Study to acquit your self of your Embassy with all Care and Industry, and in a proper and suitable Manner. According to the Orders of the Emperor, you must wait your Answer with Patience, being always ready upon your Guard, never permitting too many People at a Time to come on board your Vessels: In the mean Time act with all manner of Courtesy and Civility imaginable towards every One of them; and let your People, who must go into the Town to buy up necessaries, do the same, keeping themselves at the same time secure from any surprize, or ill accident that might befall them, if there are, for example twenty, or thirty *Chinese* on board of one Vessel, that come either as Searchers, or out of Curiosity, and more desire to come in, you shall cause them to be told, that if they will be at the trouble of waiting a little, till the others are gone out, you will then receive them in very willingly: It may so happen that the Governour of the Town, or the *Vice Roy* of the Province, will deprive you of some Effects, and in that do you some Injustice, relying on this bad pretext, that you are not as yet under the Protection of their King. You must exert
all

‘ all your Prudence in these cross Acci-
‘ dents: Do not flatly deny them, nor on
‘ the Contrary, do not grant every Thing
‘ they ask. You must make a Virtue of
‘ Necessity, being always Content to get
‘ off of these Importunities, not as you would,
‘ but as you are able. You shall Daily and
‘ without Intermision Address and Petition
‘ the Governour, and the other Magistrates,
‘ to hasten the Arrival of your Dispatches
‘ from the Court, as much as lies in their
‘ Power, and to give you the necessary Pass-
‘ ports for your going securely with your
‘ People to *Pekin*; which, is the Residence
‘ of the great *Cham*.

‘ The Governour of *Nanquin* will cause
‘ you to be conducted, and put into the
‘ Hands of the Chancellor of the Kingdom at
‘ *Pekin*. You shall then beseech him out of
‘ Favour, to permit you to go in Person, and
‘ carry to the Eyes of the Emperor, the
‘ Letter and Presents from his Majesty, with
‘ all the usual Solemnities, and to procure
‘ you a Favourable Audience. When the Day
‘ shall come, and you are before the Emperor,
‘ you shall declare to him that you are sent
‘ Exprely on the Part of the King your Lord,
‘ to know the State of his Health, and to
‘ wish him a Long and Happy Reign. You
‘ shall Present him afterwards your Services,
‘ and most humbly beseech his Majesty, to
‘ give a Favourable answer to the Letter of
‘ the

‘ the King your Lord. It is not to be doubt-
‘ ed, but that, before your Audience, you
‘ will have time enough to discourse with
‘ many Persons, from whom you must get
‘ the best Lights you can ; you shall do this
‘ particularly with the *Roman Ecclesiasticks*
‘ who are at that Court, and are much esteem’d
‘ and consider’d there. You have Letters of
‘ Recommendation to them from the Prelates
‘ of *Paris*. You must engage them to the
‘ utmost of your Power, to assist you in your
‘ Design.

‘ After having deliver’d the Letters and
‘ Presents to the King, you shall make Pre-
‘ sents to the Chancellor of the Empire, and
‘ to the other Ministers who will be able to
‘ serve you, giving each in Proportion to his
‘ Employ, and according to the Custom of the
‘ Country. You will not want People to ad-
‘ vise you justly, to whom and in what man-
‘ ner you are to make these Presents ; because all
‘ the *Chinese*, and particularly the Merchants,
‘ are overjoy’d at your coming, on account of
‘ the Profitable Trade, which they will be in
‘ hopes of having with the *French*, will In-
‘ terest themselves in the Liberty you come
‘ to Sollicite for. They will Council you
‘ rightly what to do, to obtain it in the best
‘ and speediest manner, and seek your Friend-
‘ ship with a great deal of Sincerity. You
‘ must be Cautious, Civil, and Affable to all,
‘ according as your Experience shall have al-
‘ ready

‘ ready taught you to be, and particularly to
‘ those People who use the Exchange, and to
‘ those who are appointed to Convoy you on
‘ the Roads and to be your guards at the
‘ Court; using your utmost efforts to oblige
‘ every body, to publish your Personal Merit,
‘ and have a good Opinion of the Nation
‘ you come from. And for this end you must
‘ keep all the Domesticks strictly to their duty,
‘ and all others who have any dependance
‘ upon you.

‘ After having had Audience of the Empe-
‘ ror, and made your presents, as also to the
‘ Court, you shall solicit the Chancellor to
‘ obtain of his Majesty, the Grant and Liber-
‘ ty desired in your Letter, and particularly
‘ that of Vending the Merchandizes, and em-
‘ ploying the Capital Stock, which the Com-
‘ pany shall have given into your Hands.
‘ When you have obtain’d it, you must make
‘ good use of it and your principal care ought
‘ to be, to take exact notice, what Manufa-
‘ ctures of *France* there is the greatest demand
‘ for, and what sort of Merchandizes sell best
‘ in *China*. and which bring in the greatest
‘ Profit. You shall afterwards imploy your
‘ Capital Stock in Merchandizes; to wit, two
‘ thirds in fine raw Silk white and well fortified,
‘ informing your self diligently, if there is
‘ not a better kind than that which they shew
‘ you, for it is certain, that if they are not
‘ skillful People who are commission’d to buy,
‘ they

' they will not at first let you see the best
 ' sort. The Province of *Nanquin* produces
 ' the best Silk in *China*, but it is not all of
 ' one Sort. You shall employ the other third
 ' in Silk-Stuffs, *viz.* Pelings, white, single,
 ' half double, and treble, almost all wrought,
 ' and a few Plain. The Stuffs of *Nanquin* are
 ' almost all sold in bundels all of a Sort, as
 ' well for the use of the Country it self, as
 ' for the Trade of *Japan*. They consist of
 ' Pelings, Linthees, Panghills, Gielems, and
 ' Armosins. The *Hollanders*, import no-
 ' thing of all this but the Pelings into their
 ' Country, because they yield the most pro-
 ' fit. You shall however bring an hundred
 ' Pieces of the sorts named, to serve for a
 ' sample, and for the same purpose, fourscore
 ' or an Hundred Pound of the Silk of *Bogi*, of
 ' Mohair Silk, of sowing Silk, and of Silk to
 ' embroider with ; and not any more of each,
 ' because your Cargoe will not be carry'd to
 ' *Japan*, but brought into *France*. There is
 ' neither Velvet, Brocards, Damasks, Sattins,
 ' nor Padefays, made in the Province of *Nan-*
 ' *quin*. The *Portugueze* have erected Manu-
 ' factures thereof in that of *Canton*, towards
 ' the *South*. It might be proper to bring some
 ' of them by way of Sample. The *licol* of
 ' Silk, which is 125 Pound *Holland Weight*.
 ' sold in my Time in *China* for 200 *Pialter*.
 ' The first sort, is four Livers fifteen Pence
 ' per Pound, the second sort four Livers five
 ' pence

‘ pence, and the third sort three Livers ten
‘ pence *per* Pound. At these Rates the Silks
‘ of *Nanquin*, one with another costs four Li-
‘ vers *per* Pound, and sells at least for seven
‘ Livers in *Japan*. It is very requisite to buy
‘ the wrought Silks, and Silk Stuffs, by the
‘ Weight, for the goodness sake. Both the
‘ one and the other yielded formerly sixty
‘ and eighty *per Cent.* Profit in *Japan*. The
‘ Single Stuffs cost from four Livers ten pence,
‘ to five Livers the Piece; the whole ones
‘ between twelve and fifteen, all consists in
‘ having regard to the Weight and Quality
‘ of the Silk. There must be so much the
‘ more Circumspection us’d in this first Pur-
‘ chase, by reason it will be a Lesson in
‘ which the Company must study here that
‘ Commerce, and by which the *Chinese* will
‘ observe our Capacity.

‘ Your Commerce of Selling and Buying
‘ must be executed with all the Diligence
‘ possible. that no Time be lost; and when
‘ that is done. you shall get the Chancellor to
‘ ask leave of the Emperor for you to depart.
‘ You shall humbly intreat him to thank his
‘ Majesty, to assure him that the Agents of the
‘ Company will not fail to return the next
‘ Year, and all the ensuing Years, with a
‘ great Stock of Money and Merchandize, and
‘ humbly to implore in your Name his Ma-
‘ jesty’s Favour and Protection for our
‘ Nation.

‘ In Fine, keep an exact and due Journal,
‘ of all that shall happen by Sea and Land,
‘ that shall be any whit Remarkable; give it
‘ to some capable Person to keep, who is
‘ curious and desirous to Learn, and will
‘ make all the Inquiries possible, and put the
‘ whole down in Writing. It would not be
‘ amiss, to leave at *Pekin* two or three Young
‘ Men of Wit, Prudence, and good Morals,
‘ to learn the *Chinese* Language. Leave must be
‘ had of the Chancellor for the same; the
‘ Terms of the Request, and the Time to make
‘ it are left to your Discretion.

‘ It will be much about the Month of *October*,
‘ before you have finish’d your Negotiation;
‘ that is the Time that the *North* Winds begin
‘ to blow, you shall make use of them to re-
‘ pair to the Place that shall have been speci-
‘ fied to you, at your Departure from the
‘ *Indies* for *China*. God give a blessing to
‘ your Voyage and your Affairs.

‘ When the Commerce is granted in *Japan*,
‘ and is establish’d there, the Ships which shall
‘ be sent thither, ought to be about the middle
‘ of *May*, near the Line, that they be at
‘ the end of *June* in *China*, and set out from
‘ thence in the beginning of August for *Japan*
‘ for that is the best Time; and if it is not laid
‘ hold of, the Navigation is liable to a great
‘ many Fatigues, and a great many Dangers.

*To the Sovereign and most Mighty Emperor,
and Regent of the Great Empire of Japan,
whose Subjects are most Submissive, and
Obedient; The King of France wishes a
long and happy Life, and much Prospe-
rity in his Reign.*

‘ **T**HE many Wars, which my Ancestors,
‘ the Kings of *France* have made, and
‘ the many Victories they have obtain’d, as
‘ well over their Neighbours, as over re-
‘ mote Kingdoms, having been succeeded
‘ by a great Tranquility, which I enjoy at
‘ present; the Merchants of my Dominions,
‘ who Traffick all over *Europe*, have took
‘ the Opportunity to beg of me in the most
‘ humble manner, to open to them the way
‘ of Voyaging, and of Trafficking in the
‘ other Parts of the World, as the other
‘ Nations of *Europe* do. Their Supplica-
‘ tion was by so much the more acceptable
‘ to me, as it is back’d both by the Desire of
‘ the Princes and Lords my Subjects, and
‘ by my own Curiosity, to be exactly in-
‘ form’d of the Manners and Customs of the
‘ Great Kingdoms out of *Europe*, of which
‘ we knew nothing hitherto, but from the
‘ Relations of our Neighbours, who travel
‘ to the *East*. I have therefore resolv’d, in
‘ order to gratify my own Inclination, and
‘ comply with the Requests of my Subjects,

‘ to send my Deputies into all the King-
‘ doms of the *East*. The Person whom I
‘ have made Choice of to send to your
‘ High and Sovereign Majesty, is *Francis*
‘ *Carron*, who knows the *Japanese* Language,
‘ and has often had the Honour to pay his
‘ Duty to your Majesty, and have Audience
‘ from it. It is on that account that I have
‘ sent for him express. into my Kingdoms;
‘ and because he is, as I know very well,
‘ of good Extraction, tho’ decay’d in his
‘ Fortune it is true, by the fatality of War;
‘ But I have restor’d him to his first State,
‘ and rais’d him in Honour and Dignity,
‘ that he may be more worthy to approach
‘ your High and Sovereign Majesty, with
‘ due Respect. I moreover made Choice of
‘ him for fear another, for want of
‘ knowing the wise Ordinances, and Cu-
‘ stoms establish’d by your Majesty, should
‘ commit any thing contrary to their Inten-
‘ tion. and by that means incur your Ma-
‘ jesty’s Displeasure; and that so my Letters
‘ and Request might be presented to you,
‘ by the said *Francis Carron* with the neces-
‘ sary Solemnities, and thereby be the bet-
‘ ter receiv’d by your Majesty: And to the
‘ End also, that he should make known to
‘ it, the sincere Desire I have to grant to
‘ your Majesty whatever i shall ask of me
‘ by way of Acknowledgement for the Con-
‘ cession of the Request I make to it; which
‘ consists

‘ consists in this, that the Merchants of my
‘ Kingdoms and States, Incorporated into
‘ a Company, may have a free Commerce
‘ throughout the Empire of your Majesty,
‘ without any Lett, Trouble, or Hindrance.
‘ I send you the Present here specify’d, al-
‘ though it be but of small Value
‘ I wish it may be acceptable to your Sove-
‘ reign Majesty, and that there may be any
‘ thing within my Territories, that may be of
‘ Use to it, I very willingly leave all the En-
‘ trances thereof open and free to it.

*Given at Paris the 24th Year of
my Reign*

L. S.

The King

LOUIS.

Instructions for Francis Carron, Envoy from the King of France and Navar, to the Emperor of Japan, to deliver to him His Majesty's Letter and Present; and according to which he must Govern himself in the Execution of the Projected Affairs, which are committed to him.

‘THE Company will give you Instructi-
 ‘ons for your Voyage to the *Indies*,
 ‘and for what you are to do in the *South*.
 ‘When you have fulfill'd all their Orders,
 ‘you shall set Sail with the Trade Wind, in
 ‘order to be by the latter end of *April* or
 ‘the beginning of *May*, under the Line.
 ‘From thence you shall Steer your Course to
 ‘*China*, strait to the Place where the Com-
 ‘pany is settl'd; not to take in there any
 ‘Merchandize, but only to be inform'd of
 ‘the State of its Affairs, and that you may
 ‘be able to make a Report thereof in *Japan*:
 ‘For it is very necessary, that if the Freedom
 ‘of Trade be obtain'd in *China*, the Mini-
 ‘sters of *Japan* should be acquainted there-
 ‘with.

‘You shall from thence Steer *Northward*
 ‘in quest of *Japan*: You shall, above all
 ‘things, take care not to go on Shore at any
 ‘Place without an extreme Necessity and
 ‘Danger of Life: And you shall repair to
 ‘the Bay of *Nangazaky*, scituated in 33 De-
 ‘grees,

‘grees, 40 Minutes. You shall put in there
‘without Fear, and advance to within half
‘a League of the Town. It is certain, that
‘before you arrive at the said Bay, some of
‘the Barks belonging to the Guard of the
‘Coast, will come on Board you: They will
‘ask you from whence the Ship comes, and
‘to whom it belongs. You shall answer
‘that the Vessel comes from *France* with a
‘Letter, and some Express Envoys from the
‘King of *France*, to the High and Sovereign
‘Emperor of *Japan*; and that they will be
‘pleas’d to show you the Anchorage, and af-
‘terwards go and acquaint the Governor with
‘your Arrival, receive his Orders, and bring
‘them to you, because you will govern your
‘self thereby entirely. This will appear
‘something new and uncommon, and you
‘will soon know what you have to do. If
‘you are not immediately conducted to the
‘Emperor’s Minister, establish’d in the said
‘Place in the Quality of Agent, and Intendant
‘of the Foreign Affairs, by reason you are
‘the Envoy of a King, they will depute Per-
‘sons of Quality as Commissioners, to come
‘on Board you: These will have a great
‘Retinue, and several Interpreters: You shall
‘cause the Place you receive them in to be
‘cover’d with Tapistry, and shall desire them
‘to sit down thereon. These Commissioners
‘will Interrogate you, and cause your An-
‘swers to be taken in Writing Word for

' Word, and likewise all your Discourse.
 ' Their Questions will be, what Business
 ' brings you thither? Whence you come?
 ' What Country you are of? What King-
 ' dom you are come from? On what Design
 ' you are come? And what you have brought
 ' with you? You must Answer, that you are
 ' come from the Kingdom of *France*; that
 ' you are an Envoy from the King of *France*,
 ' having a Letter and Present to deliver, (af-
 ' ter the necessary Permission obtain'd) to
 ' the most high and Sovereign Emperor of
 ' *Japan*: That you have brought with you
 ' only the Provisions necessary for your Voy-
 ' age: That your whole Commission, and
 ' Orders, consist solely to ask according to
 ' the accustomed Manner of *Japan*, Audience
 ' of the Emperor, in order to deliver in the re-
 ' quisite Form, and with the usual Solemnities,
 ' the Letter and Present you bring from your
 ' King, to his High and Sovereign Majesty of
 ' *Japan*.

' These Commissioners will afterwards
 ' Interrogate you very amply on several
 ' things, and particularly on those they have
 ' Instructions for, and will cause your An-
 ' swers to be put in Writing as before: A-
 ' mong the rest, What Country *France* is?
 ' What is its Extent? What are its Bounds?
 ' What grows there? Whether the King be
 ' Absolute Sovereign thereof? What Ar-
 ' mies he maintains? Against whom he
 ' makes

‘ makes War? Who are his Allies? What
‘ is the Polity? What the Religion?
‘ What are the Customs of his Kingdom?
‘ and a hundred the like Questions. More-
‘ over, who you are? You his Envoy? Of
‘ what Quality and Condition? And what is
‘ your Employment? Whether you have any
‘ Places? What sort of Letter is that of the
‘ Kings? How it is Writ? How it is Seal’d?
‘ how it is made up? And after what manner
‘ you keep it?

‘ Many the like Questions will be put to
‘ you, as well from the Ministers of *Nanga-*
‘ *zacky*, as by those of the Court, and other
‘ considerable Persons. You must be sure
‘ to be very careful in your Answers, that
‘ they not only be always ready in your
‘ Memory, but you must keep a Register
‘ thereof for Uniformity sake, that there
‘ may not be found the least Variation in
‘ your Discourse. The *Japanese* naturally ob-
‘ serve Strangers very narrowly, and especi-
‘ ally since the Surprize that was offer’d them
‘ in the Year 1623, when a *Dutch* Embassa-
‘ dor impos’d upon them. The *Holland* Com-
‘ pany had sent him to Felicitate the Empe-
‘ ror on his Accession to the Empire. He
‘ said he was an Envoy from the King of
‘ *Holland*, and thereupon he receiv’d the
‘ Treatment and the Honours which are there
‘ done to the Ambassador of a King; But
‘ this Man having ill kept up to his Chara-
‘ cter,

‘ ſer, and being found to have Equivocated
 ‘ in his Answers ; for in ſine, Truth is not
 ‘ long disguis’d eaſily, he was found to be
 ‘ Embaſſador from the Company ; ſo that he
 ‘ was ſent back with Diſgrace, and without
 ‘ receiving Audience. You muſt therefore
 ‘ act with a great deal of Prudence and Atten-
 ‘ tion, that you may not fall into any of the
 ‘ Snares that will be laid for your Tongue ;
 ‘ to the End the Reſpect due to the King
 ‘ your Lord may be maintain’d, and that his
 ‘ Requeſts may be granted.

‘ You ſhall answer to all theſe Articles
 ‘ frankly, and without Diſguiſe: That *France*
 ‘ is the Firſt and moſt Conſiderable Kingdom
 ‘ of *Europe*, the largeſt, and Situated in the
 ‘ happieſt Climate, the moſt Fruitful, and
 ‘ the Richeſt, which ſupplies all *Europe* with
 ‘ many things, to each Part according to its
 ‘ Occaſions: That it is bounded by *Spain* on
 ‘ one ſide, by *Germany* on another, and by
 ‘ *Italy* on the other ; being flank’d by two
 ‘ great Seas, the one the *Mediterranean*, the
 ‘ other that which ſurrounds *England*.

‘ That *France* is ſo Powerful. that it curbs
 ‘ all *Europe*, and keeps all its Neighbours in
 ‘ a Ballance, without any extraordinary Trou-
 ‘ ble to itſelf in ſo doing: That it always
 ‘ maintains fifty Thouſand Men well equip’d,
 ‘ in Horſe and Foot: That ſhe is able to
 ‘ raiſe three times the Number on preſſing
 ‘ Occaſions: That ſhe is Govern’d by a So-
 ‘ vereign

‘vereign King, who has Power over the
‘Lives and Fortunes of his Subjects, of what
‘Quality soever; who from his very Infancy,
‘has made divers Wars upon his Neighbours,
‘chiefly against *Spain, Italy, and Germany*:
‘That he has moreover, sent Powerful Ar-
‘mies of thirty or forty Thousand Men into
‘*Hungary, Poland, Muscovy and Sweden,*
‘some to Attack, and the others to Defend,
‘according as the Interest of *France* requir’d:
‘That this Great Prince is at present in Peace
‘with all the World, having made and
‘acquir’d it by the Power of his Arms, and
‘his wise Politicks: That his Kingdom is a
‘School of Sciences, of Arts, of Laws, and
‘of Customs, to which almost all *Eur. pe* con-
‘forms, and whither the Nobility is sent from
‘all Parts to be Instructed and Educated.

‘You shall say on the Article of Religion,
‘that of the *French* is of two sorts; the one
‘the same as that of the *Spaniards*, the other
‘the same as that of the *Hollanders*: That
‘His Majesty being inform’d, that the Reli-
‘gion of the *Spaniards* is disagreeable
‘to *Japan*, he has Ordaind, that those
‘of his Subjects who are sent thither,
‘be of the Religion of the *Hollanders*. That
‘this shall be punctually executed. That the
‘*French* shall never be convicted of acting
‘contrary to the Commands of the *Emperor*.
‘They will be apt to make an Objection,
‘*viz.* Whether the King of *France* depends
‘upon

‘ upon the *Pope*, as does the King of *Spain*,
‘ and others: You shall Answer, that he does
‘ not depend upon Him, the King of *France*
‘ acknowledging no Superior; and that it
‘ is easy to see the Nature of the Depen-
‘ dance his Majesty has on the Pope, in
‘ what happen’d two Years ago, for an Out-
‘ rage done at *Rome* to the Person of His
‘ Majesty’s Embassador. For the Pope not
‘ having soon enough made Reparation for
‘ the same, His Majesty sent an Army in-
‘ to *Italy*, which having put all the
‘ Princes, and even the Pope himself into a
‘ great Consternation, the Pope sent him a
‘ *Legate a Latere*, charged with humble and
‘ pressing Supplications, to which His Ma-
‘ jesty having Regard, he recall’d his Troops,
‘ already Encamp’d in the Territories of the
‘ Pope: So that the King is not only most
‘ Sovereign and Absolute in his Dominions,
‘ but also prescribes Laws to several other
‘ Potentates, being a Young Prince of five
‘ and twenty Years of Age, Valient, Wise
‘ and Powerful, even beyond all his Ance-
‘ stors; and moreover so curious, that be-
‘ sides the particular Knowledge of all *Eu-*
‘ *rope*, he seeks with Avidity, to know the
‘ Constitution of the other Countries of
‘ the World

‘ These

‘ These are the most particular Questions
‘ which will be put to you, to which it is
‘ requisite, that your Answer should be always
‘ the same, and that all your Discourse, and
‘ all you shall do, be conformable thereto,
‘ without the least Variation in the Substance
‘ of your Words.

‘ You will be conducted on Shore, and
‘ lodg’d, during the Time the Couriers dis-
‘ patch’d to the Court, shall carry the
‘ News of your Arrival. You must then have
‘ a mighty Care, that your People behave
‘ themselves wisely, civilly, and humbly to-
‘ wards the *Japanese*, and that the Conduct be
‘ in all things agreeable to what the Gover-
‘ nour shall prescribe to you. If it should
‘ happen, that you should not be lodg’d nor
‘ treated altogether to your Mind, do not
‘ take notice of the Inconveniency, nor express
‘ any Uneasyness thereat; and have always in
‘ your Thoughts, that it is from the Emperor
‘ you are to receive all your Ease, and conve-
‘ niencies. You shall keep your finest Cloaths,
‘ and which you have never wore in *Japan*, as
‘ shall likewise those of your Retinue till you
‘ are brought to Court, and till the Day of your
‘ Audience. As soon as you shall arrive there,
‘ you shall cause your Retinue to provide
‘ themselves with little Leather Pumps, and
‘ Slippers. The Floors of the Houses are
‘ cover’d with Tapestry in *Japan*, for which
‘ reason you must put off your Shoes when
‘ you

‘ you enter them, and have some without
‘ Quarters, that you may quit them with the
‘ greater Ease.

‘ As soon as the first Orders shall come from
‘ Court on your account, and it may be be-
‘ fore they will ask you to see the King’s Letter,
‘ and will be for Translating it, and putting it
‘ down in Writing. You shall not deny this,
‘ but shall deliver a Copy of the rough-
‘ Draught which shall have been given you.
‘ The little Box, in which the King’s Letter is,
‘ must be shut up in the finest Trunk you have,
‘ or some very fine Chest of Drawers. You
‘ shall place it in the upper end of your
‘ Chamber, on an Estrade, or some kind of
‘ Frame about a Foot high. You must never
‘ come near it but bare Headed. It is not the
‘ Custom in *Japan* to be cover’d before Per-
‘ sons of Quality, and Persons of Merit, as
‘ is frequently done in *Europe*. You must in
‘ this, follow the Custom of the Country, and
‘ especially when the Trunk or Chest shall be
‘ open’d, in which the little Box that contains
‘ the Letter shall be, when it shall be look’d at
‘ or remov’d. If the *Japanese* do not appoint
‘ a Person to remove and bring it to you, when
‘ you shall give your Orders for that Purpose,
‘ you shall make choice of two of the chiefest
‘ Officers of your Retinue, who bare Headed,
‘ and their Arms extended, shall take it
‘ with both Hands, and bring it where you
‘ shall direct. This little Box will be put in-

‘ to

to a Chest well pack'd up, and will be carry'd alone in a Palanquin, which is a Chair, or kind of Litter, when you are conducted to Court. Let this Litter always be before you, and follow it constantly; By so doing, you show the Respect you have for the King your Lord, and his Letter, and thereby excite the *Japanese* to do the same, as they never fail to do, to the Letters and Embassadors of Kings. If your Commission, and Letter were to felicitate on the account of a Marriage, about Affairs of State, to offer Assistance, or to ask it; or even for a simple Congratulation, as has been said the *Hollanders* sent for that purpose, in the Year 1628. It would then be requisite to observe a great many other Ceremonies; to go with a much greater Retinue, and Appearance, than in all likelihood, will be necessary on this occasion; because the Business here is only to obtain a Freedom of Commerce for a Society of Merchants; and the Merchants are much less esteem'd in *Japan* than in *Europe*: Notwithstanding which, according to all Appearances the *Japanese* will not receive you after so plain a Manner. But if nevertheless the contrary should happen, that your Entertainment was not to your Mind, nor splendid enough, you must in a particular Manner forbear giving any Hints thereof, and receive and take all things, with all possible

' possible Thanks, and with all the outward
 ' Satisfaction you are able to express: And
 ' at the same Time, you shall underhand cause
 ' to be bought, what you cannot be with
 ' out. Be careful even to a nicety, to show
 ' on all occasions the great Civilities and ut-
 ' most Affability to the Commissioners who
 ' shall conduct you, and to those who shall
 ' guard you at Court. Always follow their
 ' Council, even when it is most contrary to your
 ' Humour, and to all the Maxims, and Lights
 ' of Reasoning in *Europe*. Their Manners
 ' and Customs have a Thousand things quite
 ' opposite to ours: They esteem them, and on
 ' the contrary despise what we approve and
 ' follow. The only Means to be respected
 ' and consider'd among them is to conform
 ' to their manners, as is manifest by a long
 ' Experience.

' The King's Presents to the Emperor, are
 ' exactly specified in his Majesty's Letter to
 ' the Emperor. You will inform your self
 ' of those you are to make to the Ministers,
 ' and other Persons of Quality. You will
 ' find People enough who will advise you to a
 ' Nicety, what you must present to them:
 ' They will not tell you to do too much, be-
 ' cause the Officers are allotted what to take
 ' or from Strangers, and never run the Risque
 ' of receiving any thing over and above. These
 ' Pretens shall consist of Woollen-Stuffs,
 ' which shall be given you for that pur-
 ' pose.

‘pose. When you shall be brought to an
‘Audience of the Emperor, and shall draw
‘near his Person, it will be well taken, and
‘you will be much esteem’d, therefore, if you
‘take off your Sword, and give it to one of
‘your Retinue to keep, before you are bid to
‘do it, as it would be certainly told you. You
‘shall have nothing on your Head, not so
‘much as a *Chalot*, or half Cap, all the time
‘you behold the Emperor’s Face. It will be
‘one of the Chief Noblemen who presents
‘you to his Majesty, to wit, he who is upon
‘the guard that Day. He will be on his
‘Knees near the Presents, and Letter, in the
‘middle of the Space that separates you
‘from the Emperor. He will receive your
‘Words, and will carry them to him. You
‘shall tell him the Commands you have re-
‘ceiv’d from the King, to give an Assurance
‘of his good Will, and Affection to his Im-
‘perial Majesty, to whom you wish a long
‘and happy Life, and all manner of Prospe-
‘rity in his Reign. You shall intreat his
‘Majesty, that he will be pleas’d favourably
‘to grant the Requests contain’d in the Letter
‘of the King your Lord; and that he will
‘vouchsafe to take into his Protection those
‘of the *French* Nation who shall come to *Ja-*
‘*pan*. It may happen, that the Emperor may
‘have some Discourse with you, it will be
‘short without doubt, and if he has any
‘Questions to ask you, it will be by the In-
‘ftermediation

'mediation of the Nobleman who con-
 'ducted you to your Audience. This is
 'their way to all sorts of Embassadors, not
 'out of Contempt, but to do Honour, and it
 'is so that they explain it. Your Audience
 'will be given you at the Time of the New
 'or full *Moon*, because then all the Kings, Prin-
 'ces, and other Grandees of *Japan*, come to
 'Court, to see the Emperor ; and pay their
 'Reverence to him.

' After your Audience is over, you shall
 'go and salute the Ministers of the Council,
 'who have any Influence in your Negotiati-
 'on. You shall make them Presents : You
 'shall intreat them to assist you in the obtain-
 'ing a favourable and speedy answer to his
 'Majesty's Letter. This done, you will not
 'be kept long in suspense. It will be brought
 'you with presents from his Majesty. You shall
 'receive the whole with a great deal of Reve-
 'rence and Respect, and you shall cause his Ma-
 'jesty's Letter to be carry'd as you did the Let-
 'ter of the King your Master. At your Return
 'you shall acknowledge by Reciprocal Pre-
 'sents, those which shall have been made you
 'in the way, as you went to Court, and at
 'here, you shall avoid all Profusion, so you
 'must take care not to be behind hand with
 'any body. You shall behave your self after
 'the same manner towards the Governour of
 '*Nangasacky*, at your return thither ; and
 'you shall most earnestly intreat him to favou
 ' those

‘ those of the *French* Nation, who shall
‘ come to *Japan*, and bear with their Igno-
‘ rance of the Manners and Customs of the
‘ Country: And cause them to be instructed
‘ therein as well as possible. Then you
‘ shall depart; and if time will permit, you
‘ shall pass by *China*, to see what the Com-
‘ pany is doing. Do not however expose
‘ your self to the Winds and Storms that rise
‘ on the Coast of *China*, during the Northern
‘ Monsoons. Go afterwards supposing a free
‘ Commerce in *Japan* has been obtain’d, as it
‘ is hop’d it will, to the Coast of *Java*, Land
‘ at *Bantam*, in order to repair to the Great
‘ Mataram.



C H A P. VI.

King of France's LETTER to the Emperor of Japan, in relation to Trade. Instructions to Mr. Carron, Envoy at the Court of Japan. Manner of putting up and carrying the King's Letter to Court.

UPON these Memoirs, the Company dispatch'd by Land, to the Court of *Persia*, and to that of the Great *Mogul*, three *Envoys*, who join'd themselves to the King's two Deputies, but without any Character, to prepare its Ways. Here is the Tenor of the Letter they were charg'd with for the King of *Persia*, as I took it from the Translation that was made thereof into the *Persian* Language.

Most High, most Excellent, most Powerful, most Invincible Emperor of Persia, Our most Honour'd and most beloved Friend.

‘ WE have taken a great deal of Satisfaction
 ‘ on in seeing several of our Subjects re-
 ‘ solv'd to make known to your Highness
 ‘ the Establishment of Trade, which they
 ‘ design to settle in your Dominions, where
 ‘ in a great many of the Nobility of your
 ‘ King

‘ Kingdom have interested themselves. We
‘ do not doubt, but that your Highness con-
‘ ceives, that it is an Undertaking, from
‘ which our Subjects, and your own may
‘ reap much Benefit. As to us, it is so
‘ much the more agreeable, by reason that
‘ it will be a Means of renewing that Friend-
‘ ship which subsisted in Ancient Times, be-
‘ tween the Emperors of *Persia*, your Pre-
‘ decessors, and the Kings, our Ancestors. It
‘ is in order to make known to you, how
‘ much we esteem the Constitution of this
‘ good Friendship, and how much we have
‘ it at Heart, that you should favour the
‘ Merchants of this Company, that being
‘ inform’d that some Gentlemen, curious to
‘ see your Court, go along with the Depu-
‘ ties the Company sends to your Majesty,
‘ to lay open their Intentions; we have
‘ charg’d them earnestly to intreat you on
‘ that Head, We perswading ourselves, that
‘ they will have favourable Access to your
‘ Highness. We conclude with our Prayers
‘ to God for the continuance of your Gran-
‘ deur, and Prosperity.

To frame a Judgment of this *Letter*, ac-
cording to our Idea’s and Manners, there
is certainly nothing that can be found
fault with in it; but such is the Polite
Civility of that other World to which it
was Address’d, that they found two De-

fects therein. The first was, its being Seal'd with a Common Seal. These Sovereigns of the *East*, have Seals of different Sizes; the largest about the bigness of a Crown-piece the lesser about the bigness of a Sixpence, both the one and the other sort of different Figures, as square, round, oval; but the least of all are only put to Letters and Orders directed to Persons of a lower Rank, or else to Subjects. This has been known a long time ago at *Vienna*, *Venice*, *Rome* in *Poland* and *Muscovy*, by reason of their mutual intercourses of Trade. All Letters likewise which they write out of those Countries to the King of *Persia* are under the Broad-Seal, and that Seal is inclos'd in a Box of Gold; for it is another piece of *Eastern* Civility, to put the Letters into rich Boxes, or into Purfes made of Stuffs, more or less rich, in proportion to the Quality of the Persons to whom they are directed.

The second Fault which the Court of *Persia* found with the King of *France's* Letter, was, that it was sent only upon Occasion, or by a Friend's Hand, as the Trading People call it; that is to say, by two Gentlemen Travellers, whose Curiosity led them thither, and not by an Ambassador sent expressly for that purpose. However, an Excuse was found for all this, and for the first Point they alledg'd, That
the

the King of *France* wrote with his Common Seal to the Emperor, the Pope, and to the Grand Seignior himself; and as to the second Point, that the King declin'd sending an Embassador, because it would have been necessary for him to have pass'd through the *Turks* Dominions, but that he would send one in a little time by Sea.

These Excuses were taken. *Abas* the Second, who had a peculiar love for the *Europeans*, and had a mighty Inclination to enter into the strictest Leagues, and Bonds of Friendship with our Princes, to render himself the more formidable to the *Grand Seignior*, and *Great Mogul*, receiv'd those Deputies very favourably, and caress'd them after an extraordinary manner. The Particulars are to be met with in Mr. *Taverner's* Third *Volume*: But at the same time, that I refer the Reader thither; I am glad of this Opportunity of informing him, that I don't do it out of any Esteem I have for those Pieces, so far from that, I look upon the greatest part of them, to be a worthless Medley of the Debauches and Adventures of People of low Life and those, for the most part, *Dutchmen*, publish'd from a Spirit of Flattery, and in compliance to the Animosity which they had in *France*; against that Common-wealth; just at that time when the *Rhapsody* was put in the Press.

To return back to my Discourse concerning the Establishment of the *French Company*, I found two of the five Deputies at the Court of *Persia*, in the Year 1666. The one was from the Company; the other, whose Name was *De Lalain*, came from the King; and I may say it was a piece of good Luck for them, because the Court of *Persia* nor having had good Informations in favour of the Company, was resolv'd to wait for the arrival of their Ships, before they would grant the Deputies any one of their Requests: But what I represented to the King, and to his Ministers, was hearken'd to, and they obtain'd what they ask'd.

C H A P. VIII.

Three Envoys from the Company join the two Deputies, but without any Character. The Letter they were charg'd with to the King of Persia. The Faults wherein. Their Request granted through the Author's Means.

There is room to believe, that the *French Company* knew nothing at all what the Trade of *Persia* was when they sent their Deputies thither: For the chief Directors thereof arriving in the Indies in the Year 1668, and having from thence, in the best manner

manner they could, weigh'd and consider'd the Profits of the Traffick with *Persia*; they judg'd it not to be considerable enough to send their Ships thither, and they, in Fact, sent none at all. Other Directors being come to the *Indies* in the Year 1672, to wit, the Messieurs *Baron*, *Gueston*, and *Blott*, there was a talk of sending some. It is proper to observe, that out of these three Gentlemen, only the Person last mention'd understood Trade. Mr. *Baron* was pitch'd on, to go upon the Embassy to the Great *Mogul*, and had his Commission and Instructions accordingly; Mr. *Gueston* thinking he should gain neither Glory nor Profit at *Surat*, took a Fancy of making just such another Expedition. The *Capuchins* of *Persia* furnish'd him with an Opportunity, by renewing the Instances which they had for a long time made, that the Company would send an Ambassador and Presents into *Persia*, to disengage the Faith of the Promises they had made for these six Years to this Court, upon that Subject. The Agents of the Company at *Ormus*, and *Ispahan*, made the same Instances, representing that the Honour of the Nation was concern'd, and that it was requisite to make Presents to the King, and Ministers of *Persia*, in recompence of the exemption from the Customs, which he had granted to them, and which they had enjoy'd as the Occasions offer'd. Mr. *Gueston*
believ'd

believ'd that he had good Grounds enough to go upon, and to justify his Undertaking; insomuch, that contrary to the Advice, and Remonstrances of the Merchants of the Company, who represented to him, that the Trade of *Persia* was not worth the Charges. He made himself an Ambassador of his own Head, without Letters of Credence, and without Instructions, intending to draw them up himself, when he came upon the Place, because it never appear'd, that he had ever come to a Determination of what he should ask, nor what he should Treat of in *Persia*.

He Embark'd at *Surat* in the beginning of *March*, 1673, carrying along with him fine Presents for the King, and his Ministers, and a great Stock of Merchandizes to defray the Charges of the Voyage; but he took a small Train with him, and not so much as one Man in it, that was capable of any Negotiation: In twenty Days he arriv'd at *Ormuz*, from whence setting out with more Haste than good Speed and without taking the necessary Provisions, for so long, and fatiguing a Journey, as that is from *Ormuz* to *Ispahan*, which takes up at least a Month's Travelling; he and his whole Company fell sick in a very few Days: They begg'd of him to stay a little by the Way, and take a few Day's rest, but in Vain; he was resolv'd to Travel more like a Messenger, than an Ambassador;

bassador ; the Governours of the Places thro' which he pass'd, offer'd him Horse-Litters, but he would hear nothing of that kind neither, dreading the Expence, as well as the Delays, that would attend them. Another Unhappiness for him and his Attendance was, that he could not be perswaded to follow the Regiment of that Country.

He came then to *Chiras*, more dead than alive, and all his People were in the same Condition, several of them never raising from their Beds any more. He had the Mortification of seeing his only Son die the first of all the Company, on the twelfth Day after his Arrival ; and he died himself the last, at the Expiration of fifteen Days

The *Carmelite* Missioners, in whose Convent he died, pretending he had ordered upon his Death-Bed, that the Rest should be Ruled by their Counsel and Advice, were of Opinion, that this Troop of People so impair'd and lessen'd by the Fatigues of their Journey, among whom there was not one Experienc'd Man, or that could make a tolerable Appearance, should return Home, leaving the Presents Deposited at *Chiras* in safe Hands. They alledg'd for their Reasons, That among the Papers of the Deceas'd, no Credential Letters, no Instructions, no Memorandums, no Signs of an Embassy being to be found, it would be a downright
Folly

Folly to go, and expose themselves, at so Polite and Wise a Court as that of *Persia*, and to spend five and twenty or thirty thousand Crowns, to make themselves the Laughing Stocks of the Nation. It was very good Counsel, but it was not follow'd : The Company's Interpreter, a *French* Merchant, born and bred at *Ispahan*, who in Truth was the End and Soul that Animated the Embassy, not finding his Accompt in the Advice given by the *Carmelites*, over perswaded a Captain of a Ship. and a Clerk, who were the most considerable Persons of the Company, to oppose this Council ; after several Debates, they came to a Resolution of referring the Matter to the Opinion of the *Capuchins* at *Ispahan*, though it would be three Weeks at least, before they could receive their Answer. These good *Capuchin* Fathers had taken too much Pleasure in the Thoughts of a *French* Embassy, to let it Vanish, or be deferr'd to another Time, Their Superior, a Man of good Knowledge and Conduct, Named Father *Raphael de Mans*, wrote them back Word, that they had nothing to do but to come, that the want of Credential Letters, Orders, and Instructions, signified but little ; because that Deficiency should be Supplied, and that they would not have less Success, than the Deceased would have had, if he had been alive : These Encouragements were very pleasing to the little *French* Company at
Chiras ;

Chiras ; the Heads, the Captain of the Ship, and the Clerk, of whom I made Mention, had already got a Custom of putting on the Cloaths of the Deceased, and being Treated like Ambassadors, and they found the Treatment too sweet to refuse the Present, Fortune had made them thereof ; the Captain being the Nephew of Mr. *Berrier*, was Elected to represent the Ambassador ; the Clerk was the Person who bore the second Post. I cannot forbear relating a very Pleasant Incident in this Story, which is, that the Interpreter I have been speaking of, who was their Guide, and absolute Director, was just upon the Point of Constituting himself Ambassador, rather than to produce two such Personages to a Court, so Artful, and so Polite, as that of *Persia*. : It is true, he had a good Mein, and Wit enough to maintain the Character ; but he durst not Presume to take it upon him, after he had reflected a while, what a Piece of Burlesque it would be to see him at the Head of an Embassy ; him, who was a Subject of the Country, born among the *Armenians*, who are the lowest Class of Subjects, and who had Officiated for the Company from the Beginning, in the Quality of Interpreter, which is the Post of a Menial Servant. He has several Times protested to me, that the only Thing which hinder'd him from running the Risque, was, that he could not determine whether he should

Should Dress after the *French* or *Persian* Manner: If I should go Dress, said he, in a *Persian* Habit, which is my own Country Fashion, it would be Absurd and Ridiculous to see a Native of *Persia*, in a *Persian* Dress, appear as a *French* Ambassador, with a Train of *French* men Cloath'd after the Manner of their Country; and if I should Dress my self like a *French* Man, the Children would be running after me, and the whole Embassy would pass for a mere Masquerade.

There are *Europeans* of all Nations, who frequently, in the *East*, give the like Examples of Imprudence, and Irregularity.

When this Ambassador was near *Ispahan*, he wrote a Letter to the *Nazir* or Superintendent, to give him advice of his coming, and that is the Letter which made way for this Digression. He sent word, that upon the arrival of the late Mr. *Gueston*, and himself at *Bander abassi*, they had dispatch'd an Express to inform him of it, and to beg of him to procure them, an Apartment in a Palace near the Court, to which, having receiv'd no answer, and being come near the Town, he renew'd his Instances, to know the Will of the King, concerning the Day upon which he should make his publick Entry, and touching the Place where he should first alight.

In the Evening I was with the *Nazir*, and there I met with the *French* Company's In-

Interpreter, I mean the same Merchant I was speaking of just now. The *Nazir* told him, he had presented a Petition to the King for the *French* Ambassador, and that his Majesty had order'd a Palace to be given him, and that all the Honours should be done to him, that are usually paid to Ambassadors. It is here to be observ'd, that the *Eastern* Nations call all those Ambassadors, who come on the behalf of a Sovereign, without any of those distinctions of Titles and Characters in use among us.

C H A P. IX.

The Author pays his respects to the two Favorites of the King, who promise Services but do nothing. Visits to Persons of Distinction. He is sent for to the Nazir. His Jewels produc'd.

ON the 9th I went and pay'd my respects to *Mira-li bec*, and *Nisr-ali-bec*, the Favorites of the King, Sons to the Governour of *Armenia*, and to deliver to them the Letters of Recommendation, which I had receiv'd from their Father. They promis'd me all the Assistance in the World, but did not do the least thing in Nature for me,
as

as I came to understand afterwards. Then I went and payed other Visits on that same Day, and the Day following, to several Persons of great Quality, whom I knew at the Time of my first Voyage, and particularly those for whom I had Letters of Recommendation.

Upon the 11th the *Nazir* sent me several Horsemen, to conduct me to his Palace when he should be come back from the King. He had there got an assembly together, of the most Skilful Jewellers in the City, *Mahometans*, *Armenians*, and *Indians*, to the number of Eighteen or Twenty. The Head of the Goldsmiths sat at the upper end of the *Mahometan*, Jewellers. The *Armenians* and *Indians* were in another Hall, separated from this, by a row of Balusters with Glass Sashes.

The *Nazir* coming in caus'd all my Jewels to be brought forth; what the King had made choice of were in a large Gold Basin of *China* fluted. I was in a manner Thunder-struck when I cast my Eyes on what the King had set apart, which was not one Quarter of what I had brought. I became Pale and without Motion. The *Nazir* perceiv'd it, and was touch'd thereat; I was just by him, he therefore leaned towards me and said in a low Voice; You afflict your self that the King has lik'd only a small Part of your Jewels. I protest to you that I have
done

more than I ought, to create in him a liking to them all, and to make him take at least one half of them; but I could not succeed therein because your large Pieces, as the Sabre, the Poynard and the Looking-Glass are not well made according to the Fashion of the Country. However compose your Mind you shall sell them if it pleases God. These Words pronounc'd with Tenderness, brought me out of the Consternation, into which I had been cast without perceiving it my self: I was much surpriz'd, and very much afflicted that the *Nazir* had been sensible thereof. However I recover'd my self as well as I could, without disguising at the same time too much, the Displeasure I had, and which was so well grounded seeing that the great Pains which I had taken for four Years together, instead of making my Fortune, and heaping Honour upon me, as the late King of *Persia* had promis'd me, were like to afford me nothing but Losses and fresh Labour.

The Chief of the Goldsmiths took before him the Bason, in which was what the King had set apart, and beginning with the little Pieces, he asked (whispering) the Price of each Jewel, one after the other, and then he caus'd it to be valu'd by the Jewellers, first by the *Mahometans*, then by the *Armenians*, and afterwards by the *Indians*, each Corps separately. The Merchants in *Per-*

ſia who treat upon any Bargain before People, never make uſe of Speech to tell one another the Price : They ſignify it by their Fingers, by giving their Hands under one end of their Garment, or under a Handkerchief, in ſuch manner, that the Motions they make cannot be perceiv'd. To ſhut the Hand one takes hold of, is to ſay a Thouſand : To take the Finger extended marks a Hundred, and bent in the Middle Fifty. The Number is expreſs'd by preſſing the end of the Finger, and the Ten by bending the Finger : And when they will ſignifie ſeveral Thouſands, or ſeveral Hundreds, they repeat the Action, and the Management of the Hand, or of the Fingers. This way is eaſie and ſafe to expreſs ones Thought, without being underſtood by any, but thoſe who it is intended ſhould know it. It is made uſe of every where in the *East*, and principally in the *Indies*, where it is univerſal.

At One a Clock Dinner was ſerv'd up, which was very noble, and nicely drest, and that being over, the *Nazir* diſmiſs'd the Appraiſers having taken their Valuation in Writing : then making me ſit near him, he told me, that there was ſo great a difference betwixt the Price I ask'd, and that which the Valuers had ſet, that it would be impoſſible to conclude any thing, unleſs I abated at leaſt one half : That he had told me himſelf, and caus'd me to be told, to conſider
the

the low Rate to which Jewels, and precious Stones were fallen, by reason the King did not mind them, and the Poverty of the Court, which was not in a Condition to buy any of me: That the Times of the late King were over, and that, had it not been for his Sollicitations with the King, he would not so much as have looked at my Jewels; so that I could not expect to make any great Gains, as I might have done formerly: That he was altogether surpriz'd at the excessive Rates I set upon my Things, and that according to what the *Armenians* (who are constantly going to, and coming from *Europe*) had valu'd them at, (and they could not but know very well the current Price of precious Stones) he found I had a mind to gain two for one. The *Nazir* season'd his Discourse with so many Civilities and Protestations of good Will to serve me, that to tell the Truth I fell into his Snares, and took all those dexterous Fetches, for Openness and Sincerity of Heart. I therefore began to talk to him very ingenuously likewise. I first thanked him for all his Favours, protesting I would for ever remember them, and then told him, that tho' in truth I did not find my Account in losing by my Jewels, after so long and fatiguing a Journey, attended with so many Dangers, and so great an Expence, and undertaken by the special Order, and for the service of a Great King; yet

I did not flatter my self with the hopes of any great Gain and that to be plain with him, I would be contented to let them go at five and twenty *per Cent*. Here he took me at my Word, and so quickly that I found immediately I had been too forward. He said, that five and Twenty *per Cent* was too reasonable a Gain to be refus'd me, that I should therefore declare frankly, and upon my Faith, the Prime Cost of each thing, and it should be pay'd me with that Profit. I would have been glad to have recal'd my Words apprehending some Cheat, but I did not see which way I could do it. I made answer, that if good Assurances were given me, for the Performance of the Agreement, I would declare what they cost me, even upon my Oath, if it was requir'd. The *Nazir* told me he had Knowledge enough of me, to believe me without my Swearing, and that for his Part he swore by *Ally*, (he is the great Saint of the *Persian* Sect) by God, and by his Religion, he would keep his Word with me. Here the Chief of the Goldsmiths interrupted him, and said that I was in the wrong to require an Oath from a *Nazir* of *Persia*. Other Lords who were also present exclaim'd likewise against it. I told them I did not require any such thing and that his bare Word would satisfy me. Here upon I was forc'd to declare the true Price I had given for each Thing, in a
new

new Memorial. I was advis'd not to be so very exact therein, but I rejected the Proposition.

When the Chief of the Goldsmiths, and the *Nazir* had seen this new Memorial, they exclaim'd strangely against one Part of the Articles, and told me that I over-valued several of the Jewels, this Discourse surprized me and made me grow warm. I could not forbear saying, that it was very wrongfull. They call'd my Oath in Question, after they had sworn to believe my bare Word. The *Nazir* put an end to the difference by saying, he would present a Petition to the King about this Affair, making at the same Time great Protestations, that it should not be wanting to his Indeavours, if I did not sell, but that I should think of lowering the Price of my Jewels. I then got up, and gave many Thanks to this Lord for his kindness, and especially for his having vouchsaf'd to be Eight Hours taken up with my Business, which I lookd upon to be a mighty Favour. He seem'd to relish that Part of my Thanks, which was exactly true, for it was then above five a-Clock in the Evening.

On the 12th, the *Nazir* sent for me very early. I made haste, thinking it was about my Jewels I was sent for, but I was mistaken; it was to see a rough Diamond of seventy Carrats, that the King had a mind to

buy. It was rough cut, and had already all its Form. The *Nazir* told me that the King fancy'd that Diamond, and had order'd him to show it me, to know if there was any defect in the Water and Clearness. I told him I had not Skill enough in Diamonds to give my Opinion on so large a Stone, but that my Companion was a very knowing Man in those Things. He Judged it to be of the first Water, and perfectly clear. He belong'd to the Prevost of the *Armenians* of *Fulpha*, which is that Part of the Suburbs of *Ispahan*, where they are settled. The King bought it for three Thousand one Hundred and fifty *Tomans* ready Money, which amounts to about fifty Thousand Crowns; this Stone would have been worth in *Europe* a Hundred Thousand Crowns, and is the finest Diamond that can be seen of that weight.

In the Afternoon I went again to the *Nazir*; He told me he had not dar'd to speak to the King about my business. by reason of the excessive Price I set my Jewels at. He then renew'd his Protestations, and the same Remonstrances which he had made to me the Day before. I was provok'd beyond measure at such a Procedure, which seem'd to me to be so unworthy and mean, as not to be express'd. However I did not draw from thence any ill Omen, as knowing the Genius of the Country. I told the *Nazir* for
Answer,

Answer, that I was in despair to find that he would neither believe my Word nor my Oath. He flew in a Passion at these Words, and very sharply ask'd me, whether I was a Prophet, that People should be under an Obligation to believe my Word? I was seized with so strong an Inclination to laugh, at that pleasant Repartee, that I could not forbear. The Nazir turning to the Company, with an Air of Anger, said, pointing to me, *By God the French are altogether Extravagant; they pretend their Word should pass for an Oracle, as if they were not Men and Sinners.* I made answer, without being startled, *that in Reality we were Men, but that in our Countries, as it was knavish to give false Words in Point of Commerce, so a greater Affront could not be put upon a Merchant than to accuse him thereof.*

On the 13th I went again to this Lord, he had commanded me to come every Day to see him; and indeed he had every Day some Business or other with me, some Jewel to Buy, or to Sell for himself, or for his Friends. He propos'd to me to truck all that I had brought for Diamonds or Silk. I refus'd it, saying, that being obliged to go to the *Indies*, the Country for Diamonds and Silk, Money would be more advantageous to me. It behov'd me to be very cautious, that I might avoid falling into the Snares of the *Nazir*, who did not fail to lay

some fresh ones for me every Day. Among the Diamonds which he offer'd me, there was a Stone of Six and Fifty Carrats, which the King had made a Present of to his Mother, who had taken a distaste to it, and had a Mind to sell it. I valued it at Forty Thousand Crowns,

C H A P. X.

The French Envoy has a House ordered him. Number of the King's Houses at Ispahan. The Author is sent for again to the Nazir about the Jewels; what pass'd between 'em concerning them. A notable Instance of Eastern Craft. Entrance of a Muscovite Ambassaador. The Persian Manner of entertaining them.

AS Dinner was taking away, the *Prevost* of the *Armenians*, and the Interpreter of the *French Company* came to speak with the *Nazir*. He told the *Prevost*, that the King had given Orders to pay him ready Money for his Diamond, and to give him a *Calaat*. Such are call'd the Garments which the Sovereign gives to do Honour to those, for whom he has a Mind to show some extraordinary Esteem; and he told the Interpreter, that the King had order'd
a House

a House to be prepar'd for the Envoy of the Company: That he might chuse one himself in that Quarter he lik'd best, and it should be furnished out of the King's Wardrobe, The Interpreter made Answer, that the Envoy desired only the House, having wherewithal to furnish it himself sufficiently. The *Nazir* immediately commanded two of his Officers to go with the Interpreter, and let him see all the King's Houses in that Quarter, where the Envoy desired to be. He made choice of that where the *Capuchins* are, that he might have the Superior of the Convent, (who was his chief Councillor) always near him, for the Regulation of his Conduct.

The King has above three hundred Houses in *Ispahan*, which are properly his own, having devolv'd to his Predecessors, and to himself either by Right of Succession, by Confiscation, or by Purchase. These Houses which are all large and fine, as it is easy to conceive, the King having no Controversy with little Folks, are almost always empty, and run to Ruin, for want of being kept up in sufficient Repair. These they give to Embassadors, and Strangers of Consideration, that come to *Ispahan*. The Commissioners of the Quarters where they are scituated, have the Keys of these Houses, and are charg'd to keep them Clean and Neat.

On

On the 13th. by break of Day, one of the King's Goldsmiths came and told me from the Chief of the Goldsmiths, that the *Nazir* would send for me the same Day or the next Day after, and would give me back whatever we had bargain'd for, for the King himself, or his Friends, but that I should not show any Surprize or Displeasure thereat, but put on a good Countenance; because it was a feint to make me lower my Price, and that it would not be eight Days before they were all retaken back again. I sent my hearty thanks to the Chief of the Goldsmiths, for the Obligation I had to him, for so particular a Favour; but I was much more oblig'd to the *Nazir*, because it was he that caus'd the Advertisement to be given me, as I was afterwards inform'd. This may serve for a good Pattern of the Fidelity of the Ministers of State in the *East*. One may say in one Sense. that all that is done in those Countries is a reciprocal Cheat.

About ten a Clock I went to the *Nazir* as I us'd to do. After Dinner he made me sit near him, and told me with a loud Voice, (that all the Company which was very great might hear) That the Night before, the King being inform'd from his Mouth, that I held my Jewels at so high a Price, was very angry, and had commanded him to give me them all back again; whereupon he had most humbly intreated his Majesty to vouchsafe

safe to take into his Consideration, that I had brought them by the express Orders of the late King his Father ; that that great Prince having had so much Kindness for me, His Majesty, who was the Heir of his Generosity, as well as of his Crown, might, if he thought fit, give me some Token of his. That it was a small Matter for the greatest King in the World, to buy of a Stranger some few Pieces of Gallantry, at one or two Pistoles more than they were worth : That he had moreover represented to him that it would become his Majesty to do so, if it were but for his Glory ; and that he had alledgd many the like Reasons : But the King was so far from granting the Favour which he ask'd in my behalf, that he was angry with himself , and had forbid him speaking about my Affairs : That he was sorry for his vexatious Alteration, but that I my self was the Cause thereof ; that all he could now do for me, was to buy himself my Jewels, and to pay me for the same, partly in Money, partly in Merchandizes, Brocards, *Turkish* Stones, Silks, or Diamonds, at my Choice. I speak frankly to you says he, and the Affection I have for you is so great, that it induces me to discover it in this naked Manner to you. It is not to be express'd with what a Serious Air the *Nazir* said all this. I should have thought it a Crime to have suspected any thing, if he had
had

had not himself let me into the Secret. I tried therefore, to play my Part well likewise, more especially having before my Eyes so many Lords, most of them as Subtile and Cunning as the *Nazir*.

I Answer'd him, with abundance of thanks, for exposing himself to the King's Anger for a Foreign Merchant. That his Affection was a fresh Motive for me to deal plainly with him; but that I did Protest to him, I had told the Truth, and that I look'd upon the King to be a Prince of too much Equity, to desire that the Dangers, the Pains, and the Expences of a Seven Years Journey, should afford me nothing but Losses. That in a Word I could not part with my Jewels for less than what he had been pleas'd to promise. That after all, he would give me leave to tell him, that the King would without doubt, have taken them, if he had let him know that they were Cheap, and a Pennyworth, as they were in Effect. *How* replv'd he, raising his Voice, *could I do less? Must I tell the King Lyes to oblige you? And shall I eat his Bread like a Pr:fidious Servant? Moreover, have I not a Head to Lose? And if I don't acquaint the King with the dearness of Things, can he fail of knowing it? And when inform'd thereof, will he not send to have it taken off of my Shoulders?* I was two Hours before this Minister arguing the Matter,

ter,

ter, but without any Success, and I could not but wonder that so great a Minister, who had such Business upon his Hands, and of so much Importance, could spare so much Time in playing a Part, so little suitable to his Dignity: But all is Gesture and Fiction, thorough Artifice and Cunning in those Oriental Courts, as I have frequently observ'd.

On the same Day an Ambassador from *Muscovy* made his Entry at *Ispahan*. Every body judg'd, at the Sight of his Retinue, that he was a meer Merchant, who came chiefly to buy, and sell, as there often comes from *Muscovy*, *Tartary*, and several other Neighbouring Countries, considerable Merchants who have the Character of Ambassadors, that they may be free from the Customs, travel with the greater Safety and Ease, and carry on their Commerce more advantagiously: But several things were afterwards discover'd, that made it reasonable to believe, that this was also come to negotiate some Affairs of State. He had to the value of about two hundred and fifty thousand Crowns worth of Merchandize, which consisted in Cloaths, yellow Brass, Quick-Silver, Gold coyn'd, and in Furs: His whole Retinue was compos'd of Nine sorry *Muscovites*, of so indifferent a Mein, and so wretchedly clad, that one would have taken them for some of the Poor belonging

longing to an Hospital. The Pretext of his coming, was, to deliver a Letter of Civility from the Great Duke, to the King of *Persia*, and to acquaint him, That the Czar intended, in a little time, to send an Ambassador Extraordinary to his Majesty. These Merchant-Ambassadors, are treated and consider'd, as all other Ambassadors are, without Distinction; their Merchandize passes for their Baggage; they are defray'd and lodg'd, and conducted as they come, and when they return, at the Expence of the Publick: But then in Return thereof, they are oblig'd to make Presents, not only to the King and his Ministers, but likewise where-ever they come, which amounts to little less than their Expences. The Master of the Ceremonies went, by the King's Orders, to receive this *Muscovite* Ambassador at the Head of Fifty Horsemen well clad, most of them belonging to the Court. The Provost of the *Armenians* of *Julfa* was also there, followed by seven or eight of the chief Merchants of his Nation: He was lodg'd in their Quarter, in a House fitted up on purpose: He was treated there Three Days by the King, and afterwards was order'd Sixty *Abassis per Day* for his Entertainment, which makes Eighteen Crowns of our Money.

C H A P. XI.

Captain of the Haram-Gate Bastinado'd. Some young Noblemen got drunk, the King's Order thereupon. Another Conference about the Jewels. The Day for the Publick Entry of the French Envoy appointed. Petition of the Christian Armenians. The French Ambassador's Entry and Reception.

ON the 14th, the King caused Two hundred Bastinado's to be given on the Backside of the Captain of the Gate of the *Haram*; This is that Part of the Royal Palace, where the Women are kept, and which the *Turks* call Seraglio, the Access whereof is forbid to all Mankind, except the Sovereign. This Captain, who was already in Years, a Man of Quality and Reputation, was us'd after this Manner, for having suffer'd some Footmen belonging to the Eunuchs, who have the guard thereof, to come so near as within Sight of the Third Gate, which is what no Man is suffer'd to do. The First Gate of the Seraglio, is guarded by the King's Porters; whoever has any Business at the Palace, and with the Persons of Quality, passeth it freely. The Second is guarded by the Captain of the Gate, with several Domesticks, and a number of Guards,
and

and none but the Officers of the King's Household are permitted to pass it, unless they are expressly sent for. The Third is guarded by Eunuchs, and none must come within Sight of this : In Reality, one must be quite upon it to see it ; for it is scituate in the corner of a Turning, contriv'd on purpose, that it may not be discover'd.

On the same Day, the Prime Minister having acquainted the King, that some young Noblemen, being drunk, had caus'd some Disturbance near the Royal Palace ; he immediately dispatch'd Orders to all the Soldiers and Officers, to rip open the Belly (on the Spot) of every Man they should find drunk in the Streets, excepting such as should have Permission to drink Wine, seal'd with the little Seal. And the King caus'd forthwith these Permissions to be delivered to all the Grandees, that were us'd to be his Companions in his Debauches.

They say in *Persia*. open the Belly, as we say among us, to Hang, or cut off the Head, because the most common Kind of Punishment is to rip open the Belly ; which is done by plunging a large Poniard into the Belly, on the Left Side, and drawing it round to the very Back ; a Punishment that is not of so quick a Dispatch as is that of Beheading.

On the 15th, having din'd at the Nazir's according to Custom, with several Persons of Quality,

Quality, he sent for all the Jewels he had of mine, and having made me sit down near him, he said, *There is your Merchandize ; if you will sell it, put a reasonable Value upon it ; the whole that the King has set apart has been valued at a thousand and eighty-seven Tomans only, and even at that Rate you have been favoured : If you will part with it for Eleven hundred, (which is about Fifty thousand Livers) I will petition the King to take it at that Price : You shall kiss his Sacred Feet, you shall have a Royal Garment, a horse, and a Passport to travel, and trade throughout the Empire, without paying either Customs or Duties : If not, take them away, but think well on the Resolution you shall take, for the thing deserves it : If you would follow my Advice, you would not waver in the giving it.* All the Company then spoke and told me, That I ought to please the King, and the Nazir, and that on other Occasions, I might insist upon a greater Gain. There must have been a great many of the like Speeches to move me. I made Answer, *That the Nazir having obliged me to give my Jewels at five and twenty per Cent. Profit more than what they cost me, by which I suffer'd already a great Loss, considering the Expence of so long a Journey, and having thereupon engaged the King's Word to me, I hoped it would be kept with me : That the King and the Nazir might dispose of me, and all that I had,*

as they plea'd, but that I could not fall lower, than what was agreed upon. The Nazier, who had only in view, with all these Gestures, to impose on those who were about him, and by their Means, on the Court, and particularly upon his Master, flew into a Passion at my Answer, so far as even to abuse me; He said, I was not worthy of the good Disposition he had for me, nor of the Kindness he intended me. But seeing, that in whatsoever Tone he spoke, it was the same thing, he bid me take all away; and at the same time fell a tearing the Memorials with a Spite, so apparent, so deceitful, and so well imitated, that I had all the Difficulty in the World to forbear laughing. I took back my Jewels, I put them into a Box, which I sent away, and then fell a thanking that Nobleman for his Favours, in the Application he had bestow'd upon my Business, and I told him several things, that were proper for those who heard us; after which he dismiss'd me.

As I was going out, the *Mehemander Bachi*, who is the Introduc'tor of the Ambassadors, enter'd. The Nazir told him, he had sent for him, to tell him the Kings Pleasure, in reference to the Envoy of the *French Company*, which was, That he should, on the Eighteenth, about Nine a-Clock, go and receive him at the Place where he was without the Town, and conduct him to the
House

House which had been prepar'd for him, taking along with him Fifty Horse, the Prevost of the *Armenians*, and seven or eight of the principal Merchants of the Nation.

On the same Day, the Clergy of *Julfa*, that great Suburb of *Ispahan*, the Dwelling-place of all the Christian *Armenians*, and is on the other side of the River, to the South, went with the Patriarch at the Head of them, to present a Petition to the Chief Minister, that they might be discharg'd of the Taxes laid upon the Churches within that Place. They flatter'd themselves, that that Minister would give a favourable Answer to their Petition. But they were mistaken; for he told them, They must either pay the Taxes which had been put upon their Churches, or else pull them down. This Tax is Six thousand Crowns a-Year for Ten Churches. The present Vizier caus'd it to be laid two Years ago.

On the 18th, the Envoy of the *French* Company made his Entry: His Retinue consisted in Twelve Guards, with their Captain, clad in a Livery, and Six Officers: That which set off the Train, was a good number of Footmen, People of the Country but very well cloath'd. The Introducer of Ambassadors went and receiv'd him, attended by Twenty *Persian* Horse, the Prevost of *Julfa*, and the most considerable of the *Armenian* Merchants. All the *French*

at *Ispahan*, and a great many other Strangers, accompany'd him in their Coaches, to the very House which had been prepar'd for him, where, for three Days, he was treated by the King's Officers. They serv'd up the Dinner after this Manner: There were spread before all the Company, Cloaths of Gold Brocard, and upon them, all along, there was Bread of three or four Sorts, very good, and well made; This done, they immediately brought eleven great Basons of that sort of Food call'd *Pilau*, which is Rice bak'd with Meat: There was of it, of all Colours, and of all sorts of Tastes, with Sugar, with the Juice of Pomgranates, the Juice of Citrons, and with Saffron: Each Dish weigh'd above Fourscore Pounds, and had alone been sufficient to satisfy the whole Assembly. The four first, had twelve Fowls in each; the four next had a Lamb in each; in the others there was only some Mutton: With these Basons, were serv'd up four Flat Kettles, so large and heavy, that it was necessary to help to unload those that brought them. One of them was full of Eggs made into a Pudding; another of Soup with Herbs; another was fill'd with Herbage and Hash'd Meat; and the last with fry'd Fish. All this being serv'd upon the Table, a Porringer was set before each Person, which was four times deeper than ours, fill'd with Sherbet of a tartish sweet Taste,

Taste, and a Plate of Winter and Summer Sallets : After which, the Carvers began to serve all the Company out of each Dish, in *China* Plates. As for us *Frenchmen*, who were habituated to the Country of *Persia*, we eat heartily at this Feast, but the fresh Comers fed upon the Admiration of the Magnificence of this Service, which was all of fine Gold, and which (for certain) was worth above a Million. The Introducator of the Ambassadors would neither eat nor drink, and at every Instance that was made him thereto, he always answer'd, That as he was there only to take care that the Envoy should want for nothing it was not decent for him to eat. After Dinner this Nobleman discoursed with me about my own Affairs, and after a pretty long Conversation, he told me, That with the Help of God, I should in the end have Satisfaction from the Court. He withdrew as as soon as the Clerks of the Kitchen had carry'd away all the Plate, earnestly entreating the Envoy to let him know whatever he should have occasion for, that he might readily supply him therewith. He likewise presented to him a Mehemander, or Waiter, to attend him, that he gave him to him by the King's Order, that he might serve him in every thing he should command him.

C H A P. XII.

The Grand Vizier affronted by the King when drunk. Settlement of the Ambassadors Table during his Stay at Ispahan. The King, in Drink, affronts the Grand Vizier worse than before. Contract of the Dutch for Silk consider'd, and their Abatement.

ON the 21st, in the Night, the King being in a Debauch, and as drunk as it was possible to be, caus'd some Wine to be presented to the Grand Vizier, *Cheic-ali-can* : This Minister refus'd as he had always done, at the Peril of his Fortune, and even of his Life. The King seeing his Obstinacy, bid the Cup-bearer fling the Wine in his Face : This was done as soon as said. The King getting up at the same time, went and stood close to this Minister, and looking at him with a jering Air, told him ; *Grand Vizier, I can no longer bear, that thou shouldst here preserve thy Senses while we are all drunk : a drunken Man, and a Man that does not drink, do not pass their Time very agreeably together ; if thou wilt divert thy self with us and let us have any Satisfaction with thee ; thou must drink as much as we have done.* *Cheic-ali-can* hearing this Command, flung himself at the King's Feet. The Prince seeing

seeing he had a mind to excuse himself upon the Injunctions of their Religion told him; *It is not with Wine that I pretend th u shoul'a'st make thy self drunk, drink some Coquenard.* This is an Infusion of the Juice of Poppies, much more heady and intoxicating than Wine. The Minister here could make no Defence: He therefore drank several Cups thereof, which did his Business for him quickly: He flung himself on some Cushions, and the King fell a laughing to see him in that Condition, and for two Hours together, did nothing but make Game of him, with his Favourites as drunk as himself. He then commanded one of them to carry a Cup of Wine to that Minister, imagining that he would drink it without knowing what it was. They rais'd him on his Seat, but he had no more Motion in him than a dead Body. The King, laughing, cry'd out to him; *Grand Vizier, there is what will bring thee to thy self.* This Minister being inform'd the next Day of the Indignities his Master had put upon him, and of the abominable Condition he had been forc'd to fling himself in, would see no-body, but kept retir'd all the Day, to digest his Confusion and Grief. The King, who knew it, sent him a Royal Garment, and his Commands, to come to the Palace according to Custom.

The same Day, the Introduc̄tor of Ambassadors went to see the Envoy of the *French Company*, to offer him from the King, the usual Entertainment during his Stay at *Ispahan*; that is to say, all that is necessary for his Table, and Stable. This is what is done to all Ambassadors and Envoys, and it is at their Choice, to have their Subsistence either prepared in the King's Kitchen, or Raw and in Kind, or else the Value in Money. The Envoy thank'd the King for this Offer, as all the *Europeans* are us'd to do out of a Spirit of Generosity, according to the Practice of their Country. It was upon that Model, that the Envoy Regulated his Behaviour.

On the 23d, the Nazir sent him on the King's Part, an Order to Receive of the King's Purveyors, at once or at several Times, as he himself should think fit the following Provisions.

Sixty Quintals of *Rice*.

Sixty Quintals of *Flower*.

Twelve Quintals of *Butter*.

Twenty *Sheep*.

Two hundred *Fowls*.

A Thousand *Eggs*.

A Hundred and twenty Quintals of *Wood*.

Sixty Quintals of *Barley*.

Four hundred Sacks of *Chopp'd Straw*.

They

They that have ever so little read the Relations of the Eastern Parts, know that chopp'd Straw, and Barley, are there the common Food for Horses, as Oats and Hay are in *Europe*; and also, that all Provisions are reckon'd by Weight, and not by Measure. The Envoy was obliged to accept of this Present, which was worth about an Hundred *Louis D'ors*. The Purveyors ask'd his People, if he had rather have the Value thereof in Money: But he had commanded them to take the Provisions in Kind, one Part whereof was given to the Capuchins.

On the 24th, the Nazir sent me word by a Domestick, to come to him, and to bring along with me all the Jewels which he had given me back. I made as if I did not understand the Order: I went to his House; he was at the Palace with the King, from whence being return'd at Noon, he made me sit down pretty near him, and dine with him: He afterwards asked me, where was what he had given me back. I made answer, That they were at my Lodging. He turned himself, without saying a Word more to me, and fell a talking of other Affairs with Persons that were about him. A quarter of an Hour after, he turn'd to me in a negligent Manner, and as it were without Design, and fixing his Eyes upon mine, he ask'd me if I was return'd. I would not give him the Trouble of any farther
Expli-

cation, but got up, and went in haite, and fetched all that I knew he had a mind to have. He receiv'd it, and after having left me above an Hour in Expectation, he bid me come the next Day, and he would think of me.

On the 28th, being at Court, I was told, that the Grand Vizier had there receiv'd a greater Affront the Night before from the King, than all the rest. It was in his Wine, as usual. I have already taken notice that this Minister is quite white, and very venerable: He wears short Whiskers, and the Beard on his Cheeks, and Chin pretty long, because he makes Profession of a strict Observance of the *Mahometan* Religion, which teaches, That Decency so requires. But the Original *Persians* of *Georgia*, especially those who frequent the Court, and the Men of the Sword, on the contrary, wear the Beard of the Cheeks and Chin very short, and their Whiskers so long, that they may, for the most part, tuck them under their Ear. The King seeing his Minister only following another Mode, and the Fumes of the Wine disturbing his Brain, he immediately ordered his Beard to be shav'd after the Mode of the Court. The King's Barber was preparing to execute this odd Command, but the Grand Vizier whispered him, not to cut the Hair so near the Skin that it might be seen. The Barber was un-
happy

happy and weak enough to obey him. This cost him his Hand. The King caus'd it to be cut off immediately, because he had not exactly enough executed his Orders; nay, it had like even to have cost him his Life. The Prime Minister was stuck to the very Heart at so gross an Affront. He was disorder'd, and could not govern his Passion, his Patience, and Moderation were quite worn out; so that he went from the King's Presence without asking Leave, as is the Custom, and retir'd home, oppress'd with the sharpest Grief he was capable of feeling, as he himself told his Friends.

The King being come to himself the next Morning, and not seeing that Minister attend at the usual Hour, judged presently what was the Reason thereof: He remember'd the Injury he had done him: He therefore sent for him. But the Prime Minister had not as yet digested the Bitterness of the Affront: He answer'd the Officer who brought him the Message, and was a Man of Quality, thus; *It would be much better if the King would send for my Head, than for my Person; not that I am weary of suffering, but because the Affronts he offers to me reflect upon his Majesty himself, and dishonour him, and it is properly that Shame which grieves me, and even pierces my Heart: His Glory, for which alone I am concern'd, engages me against my self, and I even hate my self,*

self, because his Majesty abuses me, and that I am the Occasion, that his Subjects, his Neighbours and the Foreigners, who cannot fail to hear of the continual Affronts he is loading me withal, will have less Veneration and Respect for his Person, than I would have them have: These Regards, my Lord have render'd my Life a Burthen, and tedious to me, and if the King would be pleas'd to send, and put an end to it, I would bless the Order, and the Moment. All this Discourse was carry'd back to the King, Word for Word. He weigh'd the good Sense and the Truth thereof; and having sent a Second time for this Minister, he reach'd his Hand out to him, and promis'd to make Reparation for the Injuries he had done to his own Dignity, in affronting his Person. The Minister improving this favourable Opportunity, flung himself at the King's Feet, and his Heart being still full, told him, That he was his Slave, and his Creature, and so entirely devoted to his Majesty, that he could not, without the utmost Concern and Grief, see his Majesty sully his own Glory, destroy his Health, and hazard his Life in the Excesses of Wine. as he constantly did. He carry'd on the Discourse with so much Force and Tendernefs, that the King promis'd him, upon Oath, not to drink any more, as he had done.

On the first of August, the Agents of the Dutch Company prevail'd so far, as to get it self Discharg'd of one half of the Silk, She was oblig'd by Contract, to take of the King every Year That my Reader may the better know, in what this Contract consists, I shall in a few Words give a Relation of the Establishment of this Company in *Persia*,

They who have read the History of the last Centuries, know the great Views, which the Illustrious Princes of *Orange* stir'd up in the *Hollanders* to go to the *Indies*, the Chief whereof was to Fight the *Spaniards* at the Spring head of their Power, thereby to take from them, those immense Riches, by the means of which they oppress'd the United Provinces, and sent Forces every Year against them. The Undertaking was Glorious, Wise, and of great Utility : It show'd plain enough, that Money was the plain Nerve of War; for as soon as *Spain* saw it self assaulted in those Country's, where she neither entertained Armies nor Fleets, not suspected she should ever be attack'd, she was confounded, and her Strength impair'd. The great Advantages that accrue from the Commerce in the *Indies*, engaged the *Hollanders* very Strongly in this Enterprize. This People who are Naturally Cunning, and Understanding, born to Trade, and have the most Favou-
rable

rable Dispositions for Traffick, considering the mighty Profits they would reap from the *Indies*, if they settl'd there, either by Contract, or Conquest, employ'd all its Care, and exerted its utmost Efforts therein. One may say, that they have succeeded even beyond their own Expectation; for in all likelihood, they did not imagin at first, nor indeed for several Years, they should ever become the Masters of what is most exquisite in the *East-Indies*. This was the Reason, that they did not at first Form a Company. They let particular Persons who have a mind to send Ships thither, act the best they could; but when they became thoroughly acquainted with the Commerce of the Country, and that they saw themselves take Root in the *Indies*, they united themselves, and form'd that Body of associated Merchants, which was call'd the *East-India* Company. It settled it self in *Persia*, in the Year 1623, and for many Years, its Trade was for the most Part, only a Trucking or Barter, with the King. The Company unladed its Ships into the King's Magazines, who took the greatest Part of their Merchandize, and gave them in Payment Goods of the Country, as amongst other Things, Wool, Tapestry's, Silks, and Brocards. This interchanging became very Burthensome to the *Hollanders*. Their Merchandize was continually falling
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in its Price, while the King's was always rising They would put upon him Things that were not good, and most commonly the best Part of what they had was such. In fine, as every Year they underwent some new Oppression, they sent in the Year 1652, one of their Counsellors of the *Indies*, whose Name was *Cuneus*, Embassador into *Persia*. with fine Presents for the King, and for the Ministers. The Grand Vizier had among other Things, eleven Hundred Ducats of Gold, several Rarities, and variety of *European* Stuffs. Notwithstanding which, this Embassador made a disadvantageous Treaty for his Company. It contain'd; That the *Hollanders* should every Year Import to the value of a Million in Merchandize free of all Duties, to what Part of the Kingdom they had a Mind, but if they brought more, they should for the Overplus, Pay the usual Duties, and that in Consideration hereof, they should be obliged to take of the King every Year, six Hundred Bails of Raw Silk, each Bail to weigh two Hundred Pounds, at four and twenty Tomans, which amount to about eleven Hundred Livers per Bail, and the whole to about six Hundred and fifty Thousand Livers. This is the Treaty of Commerce, that is between the King of *Persia*, and the *Holland* Company; a Treaty which this Company has always complain'd of, as
being

being Detrimental and Burthensome, because the Silk they receive, is not worth upon the Place, one half of what they Pay for it. On their Side they return the like usage to the *Persians* as much as lies in their Power, Importing frequently above two Millions of Merchandize, which they pass off to be worth but one. They gain the Officers by dint of Presents, to let Cloves pass for Pepper, fine Cloth go for Course, two Bails be reckon'd but one. This is no hard matter in *Persia*, where Knavery is a common Distemper. The Company sent in the Year 1666 another Embassador into *Persia*, whose Name was *Lairesse*. He had no other Commission than to assure the King of the Respects of the Company, to desire the continuation of his Favour, and to Complain of the Governour of the Province of *Persia*, who acted very unfairly with their Agents, and Carriers. The General of *Batavia* Order'd the Director who was at *Bander-Abassij* to draw up the Embassadors Instructions. This was done, the Presents he made to the King, and to the Ministers, were worth about ten Thousand Crowns. They consisted of two Elphants, of rare Birds, of Cloaths, Brocards, *China-Ware*, of Jewels, of Cabinets of *Japan*, and of Gold Coyn'd a little of each sort. This Embassador was received and treated perfectly well, and dispatch'd with all possible Expedition.

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The late King, who was then living, could not conceive that a Company of Merchants would send him an Ambassador with such considerable Presents, without having some particular Design. He inform'd himself several times, what the Ambassador's Demands were, and for what he was come: When he found that in Reality it was only to notify the Respect and Gratitude of his Masters; that generous Prince was so well pleas'd therewith, that if the Ambassador had had all the Wit and Assurance, that such an Employment requires, he might, in that lucky Moment, have obtain'd very considerable Advantages for his Masters. He was quickly dispatch'd, and with a great deal of Honour, and besides the usual Presents of Garments and Stuffs, had that of a Horse, and a Sword set with *Turkish* Stones, to the Value of Four hundred Pistoles.

To return now to the Subject of this Digression, the *Hollanders* of *Persia*. considering, in the Year 1672, that no Ships had come to them for the last two Years, by reason of the War, and apprehending likewise, that possibly there might none come this neither, were of opinion that they ought not to clogg themselves with so much Silk, but on the contrary, keep all the Ready Money they could. They therefore represented to the Ministers, that they could

not take any Silk this Year; and that indeed they were not oblig'd to it, because the Purport of the Treaty was, That they should take Six hundred Bales, against a Million of Merchandize, which they were to bring thither Custom-free: That it was therefore self-evident, that as they had receiv'd no Merchandize, they ought not to take any Silk. They moreover said, That they could not do it, not having wherewith to pay for it. After great Debates upon the Matter, it was agreed, they should take but Three hundred Bales.

C H A P. XIII.

Civilities shown the Author in his Illness. Damage done by an Earthquake. Portuguese Duties. The Envoy delivers a Petition in order to be dismissed. The Chief of the Armenians turns Renegade; the Consequences dreaded. Their Application there-upon to the Pope.

THE 7th, I being fallen sick, the Nazir did me the Honour to send his Secretary to visit me; who told me very civilly from him, That if I desired to have any of the King's Physicians come to me, he would

would send me which of them I pleas'd : He farther added, That his Master had particularly charg'd him to tell me, to send to his House for whatsoever I had occasion for.

The Days following, I had the Honour to be visited by several Persons of Distinction, and among the rest, by one of the Brothers of the High Steward, by that of the Governor of *Candabar*, and by the Chief of the Arsenal of *Ispahan* This last, seeing I drank Sallow-Water, sent me a large Bottle thereof, which held about twenty Pints.

On the 11th, there arriv'd two Expresses, one upon the Heels of the other. with bad News, to-wit, That two thirds of *Metched*, the Capital of the *Corasson*, which is the *Choromithrene* ; one halt of *Nichapour*, another great Town of the same Province, and a little Town near *Nichapour*, had been overthrown by an Earthquake. That which most sensibly touched the *Persians*, and particularly the Devout Part of them, was the Damage that had happened to the Mosque of *Metched*, in which is the Tomb of *Iman Reza*, and is a Magnificent Mosque, and Famous throughout all the *East*. The Dome thereof was quite broke down, but the rest of the Edifice remain'd as was said, pretty entire The King immediately sent Post, a Person of Quality, to take a more
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particular Account of the Damage ; an soon after, he dispatch'd two other Lords, with his Orders to the Officers of the Province, in so great a Calamity.

On the 15th, the Introduc'tor of Ambassadors, and the Receiver of the Presents that are made to the King, came to the Lodgings of the Envoy of the *French* Company. The First, to be thoroughly inform'd, by the Order of the Chief Minister, of the Subject of his coming, and of the Demands he was charged with. The Second, to see the Presents he had brought for the King, examine them, and take an Inventory thereof. The Receiver of the Presents is called *Peskis Nuviez*.

On the 16th, arriv'd an Envoy from the Bashaw of *Basra*, under the Title of *Salem Chaoux*, that is to say, Herald of Peace, or to translate it more exactly, Usher of Peace ; with an *Arabian* of Quality, named *Mir-gabez*, which is to say, according to the Sense of the Word, Prince or the Sanctifyd. That Name is given to the Chiefs of those great Caravans of Pilgrims, who go to *Mecca*, a Town in the *Stony Arabia*, which, with the Territories round about it, to the distance of twenty Leagues, makes the Holy Land of the *Mahometans*. The Commission of these Envoys was, to intreat the King to repeal the Prohibition he had publish'd against any body's going to *Mecca* by the
way

way of *Basra*. It was upon the account of the Vexations and Oppressions with which the *Arabians* loaded the *Persian* Pilgrims on that Road. The Bashaw of *Basra*, and this *Mirgabaz*, suffer'd very much by this Prohibition; the Duties which the Pilgrims are us'd to pay being very great, and the Number of Pilgrims amounting sometimes to Ten thousand Persons in a Year. The Bashaw's Letters imported, That he had caused those who had molested the *Persians*, to be chastised after an exemplary Manner; and that he had given such Orders for their good Treatment for the Time to come, that they would be thoroughly satisfy'd therewith. *Mirgabaz* came himself to confirm these Assurances, to enroll the Pilgrims, and to treat with them concerning all the Duties they should pay, from *Basra* to *Mecca*, both going and returning. Indeed, as soon as he had obtain'd his Request, he caus'd a great Tent to be set up in the old Market-place of the City, and had a Proclamation made, That all Persons of either Sex, who had a mind to go that Pilgrimage, should come and be enroll'd, and that he would agree with each of them at a very honourable Price.

On the 18th, finding my self in good Health, God be thanked, I got on Horseback, and went to thank the Nazir for his Goodness towards me. I had had Seven

Fits of the Ague, Three very violent ones, and Four gentle enough. I made use of no other Medicines than two gentle Purges, and two Remedies: I was ty'd up to so strict a Diet, that in four and twenty Hours, I took only three or four Ounces of boil'd Rice, in some Almond Milk. They let me drink what I pleas'd, and I drank prodigiously. My Drink was Barley-Water, and Sallow-Water mixt together.

I ascrib'd my Cure to the Sallow-Water, for it is mighty refreshing, and very agreeable to drink: It is call'd *Arac bid*; *Bid* signifies a Sallow, and *Arac* signifies a Liquor extracted by an Alembic; and it is the Name they commonly give to Brandy, and to all other Extracts. In *Persia* they give this Sallow Water to drink in all Fevers, either alone or mix'd with common Water. The *Europeans*, skill'd in Physick, who know the Temperature of that Country, say, That it is a most excellent Remedy to cure them.

About this time, News was brought of the Arrival of the *Portuguese* in the *Persian Gulph*, with a Fleet, but which consisted only of small Ships. They gave out they were come to besiege *Masate*, a Town in *Arabia*, near *Ormus*, with which they have been a long time at War, which one may say is on both sides carry'd on, as between the *Turks* and the *Moors*; but their Fleet was far short of being able to undertake
such

such a Siege. All they did, was to cruise up and down, and intercept the Barks, and other small Vessels of the *Arabians*, of which 'tis said, they took to the Value of Forty thousand Livres. They went afterwards to the Port of *Congo*, where they had several Contests with the *Persians* about some *Arabian* Ships which were in that Port: They there receiv'd the Present which is commonly made them every Year, for the Right they have to one half of the Customs of that Port. They went from thence to *Babrin*, a celebrated Island in the Gulph of *Persia* for the Pearl-Fishery. This Fishery was formerly in the Hands of the *Portuguese*, who, on that Account, have ancient Pretensions on all those who fish there. They got a small Present there, and afterwards resum'd their Course to *Goa*. A Rumour was spread about, that they would also go to *Basra*, where they have the like Pretensions, and of as old a Date, but they did not do it: They knew very well, that, to get any thing from thence, a great deal of Courage would be requisite, and a greater Strength than they had.

The *Portuguese* have been for some hundred Years the Masters of almost all the *Indies*. They did not only possess all that is possess'd by the several People of *Europe*, who, for the Security of their Commerce have made Conquests in those

vast Countries ; but also many Islands, and several Sea-Coasts, a great many Towns, and a great many Forts, which have been re-taken by the ancient Possessors. The Islands of *Ormuz* or *Kichmiche*, of *Areque*, and of *Bakrin*. The *Persian* Coast of the Gulph, the Ports and Fortresses of *Abas*, and of *Congo* upon that Coast, are what they once were Masters of, and what they have lost : And notwithstanding they had no other Right over them, than that of Conquest, and Possession, yet they maintain still that Right, and make it good upon Occasion. It is between the 10th and 25th Years of the last Century, that they lost the Isles and Ports we last mention'd : and as they for a long time after kept *Masate*, a Maritime Town of *Arabia* forty Leagues from *Ormuz* and that to preserve the same, they stood in great need of a Trade with *Persia*, they made an Agreement with the King in the Year 625, by which they restor'd all that they still kept on the Coast of his Kingdom. upon Condition to have the Right of the Pearl-Fishery at *Babrin*, and one half of the Customs of *Bandor-Congo*, which is a Port three Days Journey from *Ormuz*. The *Persians*, in granting such advantageous Conditions to the *Portuguese*, managed them Politickly, that they might draw Succours from them when Need should require, against the *English* and *Dutch*, if they should chance

chance to fall out among themselves. This Agreement was kept up to, as long as the *Portugueze* preserv'd *Mafcate*; but as soon as they had lost it, which happen'd in the Year 1649, the *Persians* kept their Promise with them no longer. They deprived them of almost all their Right; and gave them only what they pleas'd themselves, which often did not amount to Five thousand Crowns a Year, for above Sixty thousand which they ought to have had. In fine, these last Years, the Vice-Roy of *Goa* having sent an Ambassador to the Court of *Persia*, it was agreed, that Fifteen thousand Crowns *per Annum*, should be paid to the *Portuguese* in the Port of *Congo* and in consideration of that yearly Sum, they should renounce all their Pretentions on the Coast of *Persia*. However, as the Article of the Pearl Fishery is not mention'd in that Treaty, the *Portuguese* still pretend to be Lords thereof, and that those who fish there, are obliged to take their Passports, for which they make them pay about a Pistole for each, but very few Barks take them. It is computed that there are about a thousand of them employ'd in this Fishery.

On the 20th, the Envoy of the *French* Company presented a Petition to the Divan, the Tenor of which was as follows.

G O D...

G O D —

(a) *The Petition of the most humble of your Servants* (b) *the Envoy of the General Chamber of the French in the East-Indies.*

(c) **H**E most humbly entreats, with all the Earnestness imaginable, that Consideration may be had of the long time that has elaps'd since his Arrival within the (d) Seat of the Monarchy, and that a favourable Regard may be had thereto. The Ardent Desire of this humble Servant, is, that he may be admitted to Audience, that he may have the Honour and Glory of kissing the Feet of the most Noble Lieutenant of the (e) Prophets, that he may make known the Subject of his coming, and that he may afterwards be dismiss'd. The proper (f) Time to go from *Persia* to the *Indies* by Sea, approaches. The Ships that brought the Petitioner to the (g) Holy Port *Abas*, remain there useless : They lose a great deal in waiting for him : So that the sooner he is dispatched, the better will it be for his Affairs, and the greater will be his Master's Gains thereby. This is the Petition, that his urgent Business has obliged him to present. (b) your Commands are above all.

EXPLANATION.

(a) **I**T is the Custom in *Persia* of treating by Petition with the King, and with the Great Ministers. These Petitions are called *Arzé*, or *Arizé*, which is to say, *Proposition*.

(b) I have observ'd elsewhere, that the Oriental People give the Title of Ambassador to every Person that is sent from one Sovereign to another, tho' his Commission were only to deliver a Letter, and the Reason thereof is, in my Opinion, to make the People believe that their King is reverenc'd throughout the Universe, and that from all Parts, Homage is pay'd him, by Ambassadors and Presents.

(c) In the *Persian* Language, they speak always in the Third Person, when they will speak civilly, and instead of the Pronoun Relative, they use Terms of Submission, such as *Bend's*, which is to say, Servant, Slave; and *Donagou*, that is to say, a Prayer, to signify one who is always praying for you.

(d) That is to say, at *Ispahan*; and the *Persians* give this Epithet to all the Cities where the Kings make their Residence.

(e) The *Persians* hold, that it is the Will of God, that the World be govern'd by Prophets,

phets, or by their Lieutenants, or Vicars, in their Absence ; and it is in this Sense that their Kings stile themselves by the way of Honour, Lieutenants, or Vicars of *Mahamed*, of *Alv*, and of the Prophets in general.

(*f*) *Mauffon* is the *Persian* Word, which I have translated, the time proper to go from *Persia* to the *Indies* by Sea : It is the Word that the Oriental People make use of to signifie the Seasons proper to navigate from one Place to another.

(*g*) Those who have read the Topography of the *Indies*, know that the Winds blow there constantly from certain Points for six Months together : Thus, from *October* to *May*, for Example, they blow favourably for those who have a mind to go to the *Eastern Coast* of the *Indies* ; but during the other Months they are contrary to them.

(*b*) All the Requests, Petitions, and Memorials that are presented in *Persia*, are always concluded with these Words *Amr-ala*, the Sense whereof as the *Persians* give it, is, the Answer you shall make to my Petition, shall regulate my Desires.

The 24th prov'd a Day of Affliction to all the Christians at *Ispahan*. more especially to the *Armenians*, by the Revolt of their Head, or Governour, whose Name was *Aga Piri Calen-ar*, that is to say Prevost of that great Suburb of *Ispahan* where they Inhabit.

habit. He was a sort of half Scholar, who having read *Avicénne* and other *Arabian Philosophers*, and some of the *Mahometan Controvertists*, had not been able to resolve their *Objections*, so that it was blindness of Understanding, and the Spirit of Error that seduc'd him, rather than the love of the World or Voluptuousness. His Friend said that it was the *Opprobium of Jesus-Christ*, according to the Scripture's Language, that is to say, the Contempt and Repulses annex'd to the Profession of Christianity within the *Mahometan Dominions*. A Fortnight before his Apostacy, he went to the Nazir: and having intreated him to hear him privately; he Presented him with a Purse of Six hundred Ducats of Gold, and told him, that having been a long time a *Mahometan* in his Mind and Heart, he was desirous of making a publick Profession of *Mahometanism*; but as he had reason to dread the Aversion of his whole Nation, and the despair of his Family, if he abjur'd their Religion of his own meer Motion, as also that the Factors he had in *Europe* with a great deal of Goods, should take Occasion therefrom, to keep them, and never return; he thought it necessary, and desir'd with all his Heart, that the King would command him to turn *Mahometan*, to the end that his change might pass for Violence. Hereupon the Nazir Embrac'd him, and promised

mised him every thing. This is what his nearest Relations have told me ; be that as it will, his change happened after this Manner. He had a Year before made the King a fine Present of Fruits, for which he had sent him a Royal Garment Eight Days ago, and when he went Clad in this Habit, (being attended out of Honour, by the most considerable Persons of his Nation) as is the Custom to Thank the King for that Favour, the King Order'd him to draw near, and told him : *Aga Peri*, I understand thou hast read our Books of Learning, and Religion. How comes it to pass that knowing the Truth as thou now dost, thou dost not become a *Mahometan* ; He stooped his Head with his Face towards the King ; Then the first Minister came up to him, and said to him with a loud Voice, The King commands you to turn *Mahometan* : You must please him. This was the Signal this perfidious Wretch waited for. He boldly Answered and without the least concern : The King's Will be done ; I declare my self a *Mahometan*. Upon this he was immediately conducted to the Feet of the Prince, and after the three customary Prostrations, They made him pronounce aloud the Confession of the *Mahometan* Faith. The King afterwards bid the great Pontif, who was there present, to make him *Sunnet*, which means to Circumcise him ; and for Conclusion, he commanded

commanded the Nazir to order him a Royal Garment, of that sort which is given to Governours of Provinces, with a Horse, and the Trappings set with precious Stones.

The Advantages of the Mind, and the Benefits of Fortune, with which God had favoured this unhappy Apostate, render'd his Desertion still the more Criminal; for he is one of the richest Merchants of the Country, being worth above two Millions of Livers, without having either Children or Brothers. The *Mahometans* triumph'd in the Conquest of him, saying that his Conversion could not be attributed to any human Motive, nor to Ignorance, but to the mighty work of Truth alone. As for his part, he would fain have made his Relations believe, that the King had threatned him with Death if he did not abjure, but there is nothing more false, and indeed no body gave Credit to his mean Excuses.

All the *Armenians*, the Clergy, and the Patriarch who were then at *Ispahan*, were in a great Consternation at this unfortunate accident. They feared least some Violence should be offer'd to them, which might carry off the weak ones of the Flock; but Thanks be to God none was offer'd to them. The first Minister sent for them, and told them, that the King had a great Zeal for their Conversion, and that for his Part, he should esteem it the greatest happiness of his
Life,

Life, if during the Time of his Ministry, they would embrace the true Religion. They trembling made Answer, that his Majesty having a World of *Mahometan* Slaves, his Goodness might permit to live in the Religion of the Prophet *Jesus Christ* the humblest of his Slaves, and let them have their Churches, where they did nothing oftener, and with more Fervour, than Pray to God for his Majesty's Life, and that of his Ministers. They likewise insinuated that their Factors who were gone to *Europe*, would not return, which would be the Loss of immense Riches to the State; moreover that the Christian Princes would not suffer them to Traffick in their Dominions any longer. This said, no further urgences were made to them on that account.

The *Missionaries* being inform'd of all these Proceedings, insinuated to the Patriarch, that he ought to implore the Assistance of the Christian Princes in Favour of his Nation, to which he lent an Ear. I was asked my advice. I would not dishearten him in the hopes he had on that side. I contented my self with telling those who enter'd into that Design; that they ought to have a special regard to the Consequences of their Deputation, in case it should come to be known, whether by the Interception of their Letters, by the treachery of some false Brother, or indeed by any good Offices the
Christian

Christian Princes might endeavour to do them with the King of *Persia*. either by Letters, or by Ambassadors, which might even do them more Prejudice than Service. The *Missionaries* caus'd the Envoy of the *French Company* to signify to the *Armenians*, that if the Pope desired the King of *France* to protect them, he would not fail to do it : So that the main Matter was to procure the Pope's Recommendation ; but the Patriarch was given to understand, that to obtain this, it was requisite he should acknowledge the Pope's Sovereign Authority, and submit himself thereto. To which the Patriarch made answer, that if that were all that was wanting to save his Nation from *Mahometism*, he would make no Scruple to Submit himself thereto. After several Conferences, it was resolved that the Patriarch should write to the Pope, to the Congregation, *de propaganda Fide*, to the King of *France*, and to the Father Confessor, all which was executed some few Days after.

The Patriarchs Letters were very urgent, and moving. He therein set forth in very plain terms, that he acknowledg'd the Pope's Monarchy, and submitted his Person, and his Flock, to the Authority of the *Roman Church* ; but begg'd in the Name of God, that speedy and effectual Succours might be procur'd him. The Deputation procur'd nothing for the *Armenians* ; for the

Augustins, and the *Carmes*, being jealous and provok'd, that they had no Share therein, writ to *Rome*, that they could perceive nothing but human Motives in all this Contrivance. The great Merchants of the Place having learn'd all that had pass'd, were very much incens'd thereat, fearing least the Court coming to be inform'd thereof, it should revenge it self upon them. In Reality they have reason to dread every Thing under the Ministry of the Grand Vizier *Cheic-Alican*; for he is an exasperated *Mahometan*, who mortally hates the Christian Religion: Nay, he looks upon the Country to be polluted, and in a State of Impurity by the Residence of the Christians there, for which Reason he would willingly drive out of it all the Christian Inhabitants, without excepting even the Strangers.

The principal Merchants of *Julsa* laid hold of this Occasion to make pressing Instances to their Patriarch, that he would labour in the Reformation of the Clergy, and more especially in restraining the loose Manners, and dissolute Life of the Nuns, whose enormous Irregularities were become notoriously Publick and Scandalous, for they were not contented to prostitute themselves, but made it their Business to corrupt others, and to carry on the most infamous Intrigues. The Disorder was found to be too General, and too deeply Rooted, to admit of a Remedy:

medy ; for which Reason, the Nuns were sent home to their Parents, and the Monastery was secularis'd. It had been founded sixty Years. The *Carms* assur'd me, that they had drawn the Plan thereof, and regulated its Constitutions.

C H A P. XIV.

The Author concludes his Bargain with the Nazir about the Jewels. His Reasons for dwelling so long upon the Subject of them.

ON the 25th, I at last concluded my Affair, (thanks be to God) with the Nazir. The chief of the *Goldsmiths* settl'd the Bargain. I shall not say any Thing of the Deceits, Tricks, Wiles, Disputes, Threats and Promises, with which I was plagu'd for ten Days, and particularly on this, to make me lower the Price of that little the King had a mind to have. I was so weary of all the indirect Means the Nazir made use of to compass his Ends, that I was even asham'd of 'em for his own sake, and often doubted whether he counterfeited or acted seriously. I at last told him, that rather than see him spend his Spirits in Clamours, Transports, and Anger at me, I begg'd he would give me back my Jewels.

What will you do with them, said he hastily again? I can easily hinder you from selling any of them, or from carrying them to the *Indies*. I made Answer, that I fear'd nothing like that from his Equity. What provok'd him the most, as he said, was, that I kept firm to my first Agreement, without the least Abatement. He had put himself into so violent Passion, an Hour before we concluded, that one would have thought he was going to devour me, and indeed I should have dreaded some bad Consequences from so vehement an Indignation, if I had not been well acquainted with the *Persians* manner of acting on the like Occasions.

What I had most difficultly to bear, was the Reproaches of the Courtiers who were there present, who imagining, that according to the Practice of the Oriental Merchants, I had not spoken the Truth at first, found it very strange, I should stick so stiffly to my first Word; some of them ascrib'd it to my first Obstinacy, and others to an over-greediness of excessive Gain. The Nazir finding he could not prevail upon me by any means whatever, made a shew as if he would give me all back again. He sent for my Things, and deliver'd them to me. As I was receiving them, he was sent for to the King, He went away, Whispering something to the chief of the *Goldsmiths*. This Man,

Man, who, as I have already observ'd, was an honest good old Man, taking me into a Chamber apart, said to me, it is time to put an end to this Affair ; I am my self weary of these extravagant Feints. Yield up something of your Right, how just soever it may be, and do not push the Nazir to an extremity. Consider that it is in his Power to make you sell more of your Jewels. If your largest pieces are left you, whether will you carry them? What other King besides ours, can buy them of you? Believe me, and let me terminate the Difference, by dividing it betwixt you. You must have according to your Account, about seventeen hundred Tomans : The Nazir will give you but twelve hundred. Now I will conclude the Bargain at fifteen hundred (this is about seven thousand Pistols) I had so great a mind to make an end, that I was ravish'd with the Proposition ; but it was requisite to contain my self, and to seem not to be pleas'd. I answer'd the chief of the *Goldsmith's* with my Thanks, for the Pains he took for my Interest ; but told him the Nazir had very bad ways with him, suffering himself to be transported to that Degree, as to call me Names. Take no notice of that, said he, with an Air of Rejection and Contempt, *Росъ еды*, that is to say, fairly translating those Words, he has eaten a Sirreverence, and that signifies, that one has

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spoken

spoken very ill. The Action, and Answer of that Lord, gave me a great mind to Laugh. I reply'd, that what he was for abating, was one half of the Profit I had been promis'd, and that the other would go in Duties, five *per Cent* to the Treasury when I receiv'd the Money, two *per Cent* to himself for his due, and what must be given to the Nazir which would amount to above two *per Cent*. Hereupon the chief of the *Goldsmiths* made answer, that I should be exempted from the five *per Cent*, so that in fine, after some Repartees on both sides, I yielded.

In an hours time the Nazir return'd. The chief of the *Goldsmiths* began to intreat him aloud, that he would rise to a reasonable Price, and sacrifice a thousand Pistols in Consideration of the Pains I had taken, which deserv'd a great deal more. The Nazir, who still play'd the counterfeit Part, flew into a Passion at him and ask'd him, if he would insure my Jewels to be worth that, and why, having valu'd them but at fifty thousand Livres, he now bid him give me seventy Thousand. I have apprais'd the Merchandize, said the chief of the *Goldsmiths* according to the Rate it bears at this present in the City, and not according to its true Value. The decay of Commerce since the Death of the late King, has lower'd the Value of Jewels one half. I acted on
the

the foot of that Diminution, without having any regard to the Beauty, the Choice, or rare Collection, and well sorting together of the Stones, all which I leave to your own Consideration. There were some few Words more on both sides, concerning the Present which I pretended to from the King. At last the chief of the *Goldsmiths* took me by the Hand, and looking at the high Steward, told him; I give your word to *Aga Chardin* for fifteen hundred Tomans, with a Royal Garment, (it has been often observ'd that it is so they call those Habits which the King gives) and a Horse, which Things he accepts as a full and just payment for the Jewels which the King takes of him.

The Nazir immediately caus'd two Pieces of eighteen Sous each to be given me by the way of Earnest, and beckoning to me to come near him, he told me with a cheerful and serene Countenance, as different from that he put on before; as White is from Black, as the saying is; all ground of Contestation is now remov'd. We will for the future live in an open and undisguis'd Friendship; I was oblig'd to act as I did with you, for the King's Advantage, whose Wealth I have the Honour to manage. If I acted otherwise, I should rob him of the Bread I eat. Besides, I have a Head to loose: But I love you, and you shall be sensible thereof hereafter. Having spoken to me in this

k 4

obliging

obliging Manner, he ask'd me, whether I would have an Order upon the Farmer-General of the Customs of the Gulph of *Persia*. *You will reap great Advantage thereby,* says he, *since you design for the Indies, for this Money shall be all carr'd to Bander Abassi. and you will have nothing to do but to put it on Shipboard.* I had already reflected on the Assignment I was to ask : Indeed it would have been very advantageous at *Bander Abassi* ; but I apprehended that when I should be there at the distance of Fifty Days Journey from the Court, I might meet with some Cavils, or Extortions, either to retard the Payment of the Money, or else to procure a Present. I therefore desired my Assignment might be made upon the *Hollanders*, which the Nazir presently granted without Reply ; for which I thought my self very much obliged to him. I went away from him pretty late, very well satisfy'd with my Success, and praising God, that I had not been so unhappy, as most People thought I should be. The Nazir said to me as I went out, That notwithstanding we had bargain'd, he would have me come to him every Day, especially about Dinner-time.

Perhaps I may have been tedious in relating so at length my Negotiation with the Nazir ; but I chose to do it, because Nar-
ratives

ratives of this Kind, are better to inform the Intelligent, of the Genius of the Country, than the most exact Descriptions that can be given thereof. The Procedure of all the Oriental States is full as sordid and niggardly ; nay, I have seen a great deal worse at the Court of the Great Mogul, altho' it be, as one may say, the Center of all the Riches of the World.

C H A P. XV.

Marriage of the Nazir's eldest Son. Governor of a Province brought up Prisoner to Town. An Order deliver'd to the Author, for his Money ; poor Piece of Roguery of the Nazir's.

ON the 26th, the Nazir began to solemnize the Wedding of his eldest Son. (who was first Steward) with a Daughter of *Divan-beghi*, or President of the Divan, which is one of the greatest Places in the Kingdom, his Name was *Mahamed-Hassen* ; he was a Man very greedy of Wealth, and a great Tyrant. He was a great Plague to the Christians, Jews, and Gentiles, that had to deal with him, and there was not that Right, however clear and well-founded, that he would not oppress for Money. As for the rest, he had
a great

a great deal of Wilt, and Fire, and was very handsome in his Person.

The Wedding lasted Fourteen Days. The Three first, the Parents only, were treated: Several Lords of the Court were treated on the Fourth: The King's Favourites on the Fifth, and the Generals of the Army on the Sixth: The Pontiffs, and the most considerable of the Clergy on the Seventh. The first Minister was treated on the Eighth, and the King, the next Day after. The Tenth, was for the Chancellor, and the Secretaries of State. The Eleventh, for the principal Men of Letters. And on the three last Days, other Persons of Note were invited; so that there was not any Person of Consideration, either at Court or in the City, who was not at the Wedding. It is said to have cost the Nazir Four hundred thousand Livres, the greatest part in Presents to the Guests. Those he made to the King, were worth Twenty thousand Crowns. That very same Day he had the Goodness to think of me; he sent me a Present of Flowers, Sweet-meats, and Fruits, the finest that ever I saw.

On the 31st *Zael Can*, Governour of the City, and Province of *Candahar*, was brought to *Ispahan*; he was accus'd of having been an Accomplice in the Robbery of a Caravan, which was going to the
Indies,

Indies, and was worth several Millions. He was deliver'd up to the Kelonter, or Prevoft of the Town, who is, as it were, the Lord Chief Justice for Civil Matters. The Prisoner had only one Servant; He himself was in the Carcan, which in *Persia* is made of three Pieces of Wood square, put in a Triangular Manner, one Piece whereof is twice as long as the other two; the Criminal's Neck is enclos'd in the Triangle, having his Hand at the extream end of the longest Piece, in a Semi-Circle of Wood that was nail'd thereto.

On the 1st of *September*, the Nazir delivered to me an Order for my Ready-Money, upon the *Hollanders*, which was compris'd in these Terms.

G O D.

‘ THE Command of the King of the
‘ World, directed to his Guests of the
‘ *European* Nation, bearing an Injunction to
‘ them, to pay upon Account, and upon
‘ the so much less of the Silks, which have
‘ been sold and deliver'd to them, (a) in
‘ the Year of the Hog, the Sum of Fifteen
‘ hundred Tomans, (b) Money of *Tauris*,
‘ to the Lords *Chardin*, and *Raisin*, Mer-
‘ chants of *Europe*, the Flower of Merchants,
‘ and of the *Europeans*, in Payment for
‘ Jewels and Precious Stones, endors'd on
‘ the

‘ the back of this Sublime Command. These
‘ Jewels and Precious Stones, having been
‘ presented by the Intermediation of the
‘ most High, and most Excellent, the Seer
‘ of the King’s House, to his Majesty, whose
‘ Looks have the Virtue of Chymistry, he was
‘ pleas’d to like them, and has commanded
‘ by a sublime and absolute Order, that they
‘ should be bought. In Execution therefore
‘ of this Holy Command, the Flower of No-
‘ bility, the Favourite of his most High Maje-
‘ sty, the Head of the Goldsmiths, was com-
‘ manded to make an Estimate of these Jew-
‘ els and Precious Stones, with the Advice
‘ of the best Jewellers, and the most skilful
‘ in the Royal City of *Ispahan*. They have
‘ accordingly apprais’d them at Eleven hun-
‘ dred Eighty-six Tomans, and Twenty-
‘ eight Abassis; but as the said Aga’s, *Char-*
‘ *din* and *Raisin*, were not satisfy’d with
‘ this Valuation, and reject’d it, making
‘ it appear, that upon the foot of the Prime
‘ Cost, and an honest Profit, they could not
‘ afford the Jewels for less than Fifteen
‘ hundred Tomans; It has been determin’d,
‘ by vertue of an Order from the most High
‘ King to that purpose, that without ha-
‘ ving Regard to the Valuation of the Jew-
‘ ellers, that Sum should be paid to the
‘ Sellers to the End they might be fully
‘ satisfy’d. It has been since ordain’d, that
‘ these Jewels and Precious Stones should
‘ be

‘ be carry’d to the Royal Treasury, and
‘ deliver’d to the High and Majestick Lord,
‘ Sublime and Honourable beyond all Com-
‘ parison, accomplish’d in the Duties of
‘ Friendship, the Favourite of the most
‘ Great King, the Prop of the most Glorious
‘ Throne of the Earth, Pilgrim of the No-
‘ ble and Sacred (*c*) Holy Places, the (*d*)
‘ Chief and Superintendant of the (*e*) Pa-
‘ lace of the Women of the most High, and
‘ most Excellent Monarch, to the End he
‘ may receive them, and be answerable for
‘ the same, according to the Endorsement
‘ of this present Order. It ought to be
‘ known, that all this has been executed
‘ very exactly, and that the Expence of
‘ this Purchase has been approv’d of, and
‘ passed in Account. Done in the Month
‘ of *Gemadi*, the first, in the Year One
‘ thousand Eighty four.

On the Back of this Order, which was writ upon a Sheet of large Paper, in the middle of the Sheet, was the Memorial of the Jewels, the Quality, and Price at the Top, and on the Sides were the Counter-signs of the principal Ministers who have the Charge of the King’s Wealth. That of the First Minister was the First, in these Terms :

G O D.

G O D.

*By Order of the most Great King. ———
 Countersign'd with the Endorsement of. The
 most High, most Happy, and most (f) Belo-
 ved Lieutenant of the State, Cheic-ali can,
 most Excellent, most Glorious, most Bright,
 and most Eminent Confident of the King of
 Kings, most Merciful and most Good; the
 Prop, and First Minister of the greatest King-
 dom of the Earth, rais'd above all Grandure.*

Under the Signature, just by, was the Seal and Flourish of the First Minister. This Flourish is call'd *Togra*, as is that of the King. It is a Knot of several *Arabick* Letters, which compose Five Words in that Language, which signify. *It is necessary to arm one's self with the Assistance of the most High God, in all Temporal Affairs.*

The Second Signature was that of the Nazir, in these Terms, *Counter-sign'd with the Endorsement of the most High, most Happy, and most Beloved Lord Negef-couli-bec, Supreme Intendant of the Royal Riches, Lieutenant of the King, Favourite of his Majesty, and Great Overseer of the Royal House.*

About the middle of the Page. in the Margin, on the Right-hand, was the Seal, and Counter-sign of *Mirza Kebir*, Comptroller-General of the Demesns, in these Words; *This Order has pass'd the Pen of the Comptroller of the Finances.*

On the left Side, likewise in the Margin, was the Seal, and the Counterfign of *Mirza Casem*, Comptroller of the Registers of the Chamber of Accounts in these Words: *This Order has been seen.*

Under these Counterfigns there were three others. The first of *Ismael-Bec*, Nazir of Comptroller of the Chamber, in these Terms, *this Order has been ratify'd in the Office of the Nazir.* The other of *Mahmed Jaser*, first Officer of the Chamber of Accompts, in these Words, *this Order has been inserted in the Registers of the Demesn.* The Third was that of *Mirza-aboul Hassein*, Receiver-General, and runs thus: *This Order has been enter'd.*

(a) It is one of the twelve Years, that compose the *Epocha*, which they make use of in *Persia* in all the Offices of the Finances. The *Tartars* have introduc'd it in all the Countries where they have carry'd their Learning of their Arms, as it shall be more amply explain'd in the following Volumes, in the Treatise of the *Persian* Astronomy.

(b) It is always specify'd in the Contracts, that the Payments shall be made in the Money of *Tauris*, because that great City has the Reputation of making the several Species more exactly to the Standard than all the rest; but this is only a Formality, the Money

Money coyn'd in the other Cities of *Persia*, having the same Currency.

(c) The *Mahometans* holy Places, are the Cities of *Mecca*, and *Medina*, they call them *Haramjuvé Cherefin*, that is to say, Sacred and Noble.

(d) The Original Term is *Richs-sefid*, which signifies White-beard They make use of that Figure all over *Persia*, to denote the Principal and most eminent Person of a Place, that who governs the rest, as the Father of a Family in his House, a Captain in his Company, a Bailif in the Borough where he Commands, and the Leader of a Caravan. What there is absurd in this Custom, is their giving this Title to People who neither have, nor can have a Beard; as for Instance, the Person that is here mention'd, who is an Eunuch; but Use leads them still further, for it is given also to Women, and Maidens of Quality. This Figure is taken from the great deference the Eastern People have ever paid beyond all the rest of the World, to old Men.

(e) The Apartment of the Women in *Persia* is call'd *Haram*, which is to say, a sacred Place, the entrance whereof is interdicted and forbid.

(f) The Word which I have translated Well-beloved, properly signifies a Person who discharges his Office to the King's Satisfaction.

The

The Nazir deliver'd this Order to me compleatly dispatch'd. Had I been to solicit its passing through the several Offices myself, I could not have effected it in a Months time nor for fifty Pistols. As he made me sensible on several Occasions, that he would not lose his Favours, I gave him to understand I was highly affected with this. He did me another the same Day, for he help'd me to sell seven thousand Crowns worth of Jewels to the Grandees he had invited. He had kept all that I had of a low Price, and by a piece of Villany not to be imagin'd in a Man of his Quality, he sent them to be sold in my Name in the great Houses; and when he had a good Price offer'd for any Jewel, he would immediately buy it at a lower rate, than what he had been bid for it. This was the true Reason that made him so often tell me, not to sell any Thing of what the King had seen, for fear he should ask for it again; but I soon found out his Cunning.

C H A P. XVI.

The Nazir entertains the King, a Description of it. The Envoy of the French East-India Company desires Audience of the King The Armenian who turn'd Mahometan Circumcis'd. Visit to the Cedre or Great Pontiff, civilly receiv'd.

ON the 3d, which was the Day he entertain'd the King ; I went to his House early in the Morning, to see the Preparations that were made. His House is just by the Royal Palace. The Way the King was to come, was finely gravell'd, and one Side thereof was cover'd with Brocards and Silks spread, and the other was strew'd with Flowers. There can be nothing neater, nor more Magnificent, than the Apartment where he treated the King. It gives upon a Garden that is not very Large, but very Fine; in the Middle thereof is a great Bason of Water, lin'd with white transparent Marble, the Borders whereof are bord'd for Spouts, four Fingers distant one from the other. Round about the Bason were spread Tapestries of Silk and Gold, on which were plac'd Cushions of very rich Embroidery to sit upon. The great Hall (in the middle of which is another square Bason, the Center whereof

whereof is distinguish'd by four Water-Spouts) was cover'd with the rich Tapistry of Silk and Gold, the finest that can be seen, with Cushions all round it of the same sort, but rather of richer Stuff, and finer Work. On the four Sides of the Bason, were four perfuming Pots of an extraordinary Bigness, finely embellish'd with Vermillion gilt, between eight little square Boxes of Ivory, adorn'd with Gold enamell'd, and full of Sweets and Perfumes. The whole Hall was cover'd with large Basons of Sweet-meats, and round the Basons were scented Waters, Bottles of Essences, Liquors, Wine and Brandy of several Sorts. At Night there were fine Fireworks play'd off in the middle of the Garden. No Body ever entertains the King of *Persia*, without giving him the Diversion of an artificial Firework. The King pass'd the whole Night at the Feast in Drinking, drawing the long Bow, and in other Exercises. His Favourites praising him on the Strength of his Arm, he took so much Pleasure in those Commendations, that to convince 'em the more how much he deserv'd them, he took some Cups of Gold enamell'd of the thickness of a Crown-piece, and squeezing them with one Hand, would make the Sides meet. This is almost Incredible; but this Prince really has the Shape and Presence of as strong a Man as any is. He was carry'd away about break of Day, not being

able to Ride or Walk, through Weariness and Merry-making. The Nobles who had been of the Feast, were so tir'd, and so drunk, that most of them not being able to sit their Horses as they return'd Home, caus'd themselves to be laid down upon the Stalls in the Way. The Nazir, who was presently inform'd thereof, order'd Centinels to be plac'd round them, that no Body might come near them, nor see them in so beastly a Condition, and so unbecoming their Quality.

On the 4th, the Envoy of the *French East-India* Company presented a Petition to the Nazir, in order to obtain Audience of the King ; and on the Sixth, by the Advice of that Minister, he presented such another to the Grand Vizier, which I have thus translated.

G O D.

The Petition of a Person, who offers up his Vows for you with all his Heart, the Envoy of the French East-India Company.

‘ **H**E with all earnestness represents to the
 ‘ most high Lord, magnificent in Titles,
 ‘ the unshakable Basis of the Kingdom, most
 ‘ worthy supream Lieutenant, Excellent, No-
 ‘ ble, and Magnanimous ; the Elect of the
 ‘ Crown, the Favourite of the most High,
 ‘ and most powerful Master of the World :
 ‘ That since his arrival in the Royal City of
Ispahan

‘ *Ispahan* he receiv’d extream Favours and
‘ Liberalities from your Grandeur, and from
‘ the other high and powerful Lords of the
‘ Court, particularly the Nazir, and great
‘ Superintendant of the King’s Household,
‘ who has caus’d him to be supply’d with all
‘ that is necessary for the (a) Subsistence of
‘ a Stranger of his Quality. As his most
‘ high, and most powerful King is at War
‘ with the King of (b) *Holland*, which ren-
‘ ders Navigation dangerous, and the Sup-
‘ pliant having several Requests to make to
‘ this Court, which is the Basis and Prop of
‘ Heaven; he humbly begs he may be
‘ brought into the Royal Assembly of Audi-
‘ ences, which is the Image of Paradise, and
‘ that his Condition and Requests may
‘ be made known to the most High, and most
‘ noble Monarch, to whom the Heav’n
‘ serves as a (c) Footstool. The Suppliant
‘ promises himself from the goodness of
‘ your Grandure, that he shall soon deliver
‘ the Letters and Presents with which he is
‘ charg’d for him, whose Looks have the
‘ same Force and Virtue as Chymistry has;
‘ that he shall have a favourable Reception
‘ of him, and that afterwards he shall ac-
‘ quaint your Grandure, (who is the true
‘ Source of Nobility) with the Subject of his
‘ coming.

*The Commands of your Grandure, shall
regulate his Desires.*

(a) The *Persian* Words signify, the Substance of this *Atom*, has been given on the part of the Ministers. Hospitality, in *Persia*, is called, the Nourishment of the Stranger.

(b) The Republican Government is unknown in *Persia*, and further on, to the Extremity of the World. None but the Despotick Government is known there, and they cannot conceive the Administration of the Sovereign Power, by a Plurality of Persons of equal Authority, nor even that holy and happy Power of the Laws, which serves as a Barrier against Tyranny. They are accusom'd throughout the East to the Yoke of one Man, whose Caprice is a Sovereign Law, and who does and undoes as he himself pleases, without either Reason or Sense. The *Hollanders*, that they may not offend these Manners, speak always of their Country as of a Monarchy, after the Way of other Countries; and when they send an Ambassador into *Persia*, the Letters are made in the Name of the Governor of *Batavia*, or in the Name of the Prince of *Orange*. The first Embassies they sent to the *Indies*, were always in the Name of the Princes of *Orange* and with their Letters.

(c) *Sepher recab*, which I have translated, to whom the Heaven serves for a Foot-stool
signifie

signifies also *mounted on the Heaven*, *Recab* properly signifies a Stirrup.

The first Minister was somewhat displeas'd with the Envoy, whom he observ'd to apply himself wholly to the Nazir, without addressing to him. However, that did not hinder him from giving a favourable Answer to his Petition; he told the Interpreter, That he would employ his good Offices with the King in Favour of the *French Company*.

On the 9th, the Nazir, with one of his Brothers, and one of the King's Favourites, went in the Morning to the Prevost's of *Jalsa*, who had turn'd *Mahometan*. A great many of the most considerable of the Clergy had likewise repaired thither; it was in order to Circumcise him. One of the Domestick Chirurgions of the Great Pontif performed the Operation in a Closet adjoining to the great Hall, where the Assembly was. They gave him the Name of *Mahammed Peri* at his Circumcision; after which he was immediately put into a Bagnio; when he came out of it, he was cloathed with white Garments that were new. While this Ceremony was performing, the Assembly offer'd up their Thanks to Heaven for the Conversion of so illustrious a Neophyte, and a thousand Vows for that of all the Christians of *l'ersia*, and for the

Exaltation of *Mahometanism*. Two Hours after, the Company was entertain'd at a great Dinner which was brought from the House of *Aga Zaman*, Intendant to the King's Mother, because the Family of the new-Convert not being yet become *Mahometans*, whatever had been provided therein, would have been polluted. This *Aga Zaman* gave him his Daughter in Marriage a Month after. Circumcision is very painful to those that are advanced in Years, who are commonly a Fortnight or Three Weeks before they can walk.

On the 14th, I went to see the Cedre, or great Pontif, who had sent for me several times, to come to the Princess, his Wife, who had a mind to buy some Jewels. There are two great Pontifs in *Perfia*; the one is appointed to look after those Legacies that are bequeath'd by the Kings, and is called the Pontif of the Demefne; the other supervises those that are bequeath'd by private Persons, and is call'd the Pontif of the Kingdoms. It was the Pontif of the Demefne who had sent for me, and with whom my Business was.

This Lord having, with Pleasure, look'd over Piece by Piece, all the Jewels I had brought him, caus'd them to be plac'd one against another in a great Bafon of Silver, and went and carry'd them himself to the Princess, his Wife, in the Seraglio. I would
have

have taken my leave, and have retir'd, but he order'd me to stay ; and that I might not be uneasie, he commanded two Officers to show me the Palace : They were about finishing the Structure thereof: Two hundred Workmen were still employ'd continually about it ; but it was easie to discover that it would be one of the finest Edifices of *Ispahan*. According to the Computation of the Architects, it was to cost but Four hundred thousand Livres, but I have since been inform'd, that it cost a great deal more. I speak only of that part that is inhabited by the Men, for the other part, which is the Apartment of the Women, cost still more, being larger, and more magnificent. While I was viewing the Lodgings, they brought me Sherbet, Coffee and Sweetmeats, and I was treated in every thing with an Excess of Civility ; I mean even for the Country it self, where they know better how to caress and flatter, than in any Country of the World. I was mightily pleas'd thereat, not so much on the account of the nice Treatment, as for the Hopes I had conceiv'd, that the Princess would buy some of my Jewels ; for in *Persia* they do nothing but with Design, and out of Self-Interest. In about two Hours, the Eunuchs brought me back in two Basons, all that I had shown to the Pontif ; one of them contain'd what the Princess had a mind to have, which I left

left in their Hands, after I had given them a Memorial of the respective Prices. As I was getting on Horseback the Pontif caus'd me to be call'd back, and having order'd me to sit near him, he fell on discoursing with me about *Europe*, and particularly concerning our Sciences, and our Mechanick Arts. At one a-Clock in the Morning he dismissed me, and order'd some of his People to conduct me.

C H A P. XVII.

The Ambassador of the Resqui, and Muscovy, admitted to an Audience. A Dispute between the French Envoy and English Agent about Precedency examined and settled. The Manner of the Ambassadors being conducted, with the Magnificence attending it.

ON the 15th, by break of Day, the Place-Royal was clear'd of all the Shops, and of all the Retailers who commonly there expose their Goods. This was done in order to render more magnificent the Audience and Entertainment which the King was to give the next Day to all the Ambassadors and Envoys who were at Court. It was swept, and all the Avenues thereof were shut up that no body might
at

pass that Way. The First Minister notify'd at the same time to all the Ambassadors, by the *Mehemander Bachy*, or Guest-Keeper General, who is the Introducer of the Ambassadors, to prepare themselves, with their Presents, to receive Audience. The Envoy of the *French* Company, or to speak more properly, his Council, was very much surpriz'd at the King's Design, to give Audience to all the Ambassadors at once, and more especially, having been inform'd, that an Agent of the *English* Company, who was then at *Ispahan*, was likewise to have Audience; and that he had for some time been dealing secretly with the Ministers about the Precedency. He therefore immediately presented Petitions to the Nazir, and to the Grand Vizier, in order to prevent his receiving that Affront. He therein represented, That it was a Right due to the *French* Nation, to have the Precedency of all the Christian Nations, as well in the East, as in the West. These Petitions having been examin'd by the Ministers in Council, were answered to the Satisfaction of the Envoy. The Nazir told me so, at his coming from the King, and charg'd me to go from him, and acquaint the Envoy therewith, and to let him know, that he alone had stood firm in his Favour. The *Muscovite* Ambassador alledged, for Reasons of his having the Precedency; The vast Extent of his Master's Dominions, whom
all

all the Christian Princes call'd Great, by Excellency, in which they show'd, said he, that they acknowledged him to be above them. The *English* Agent said, that he ha'ing a Letter to deliver from the King of *England*; whereas the *French* Envoy had only a Letter from the *French* Company; the Letter of a King ought to be preferred to that of an incorporated Society of Merchants. I found all the Family of the *French* Envoy busy in delivering to the Burghers of that Quarter, the Presents he was to make: I shall here set down the Order in which that is done. The Fiskis Naviez, or Receiver of the Presents, notifies to the Great Prevost, and Governor of the City, that he must have such a Number of Men, such a Day, in such a Place, to carry the Presents of such an Ambassador. The Governor sends for the Commissary of that Ward or Quarter, and gives him his Orders accordingly, and the Commissary delivers them to the principal Burghers of the Quarter. The *Persian* Word for Burgher, is *Ket-Koda*, which signifies *the Image of God*, because a good Head of a Family represents in his House the Conduct of God in the Universe. These Burghers, to the Number of Eight or Ten, take a Man out of each Shop of the Quarter, or as many as are necessary, and repair, with a Clerk of the Receiver of the Presents, to the Ambassador's Lodgings, where

where they receive his Presents according to the Memorial, and deliver them to these Bearers. Each Man takes a Piece, and goes away. Fifty Men very often are employ'd to carry to an Audience, what one Man alone might easily carry. This Practice, is to do Honour to the Person who makes the Present, because it makes him appear the more considerable; and likewise for the Grandure of the King, by reason that the People seeing the Presents that are brought to him, conclude that he is highly esteem'd by Foreign Nations. The Present is thus kept by the Bearers till the next Morning, when they repair to the Place which was appointed them, each with that Part that was deliver'd into his Hands. It sometimes happens that the Present remains even eight or ten Days in their Hands. One would think that in the Confusion that is caus'd by a Crowd of five or six hundred Men of the meaner Sort, (for sometimes there are so many employ'd to carry a Present) something should always be lost; yet that never happens and the Account is always found exact. It is a thing impossible in *Persia* to rob the King; and, as the *Persians* say, the Sea it self is obliged to restore what it takes from him.

The *English* were presently inform'd of the Resolution that had been taken in favour of the *French*. Their Interpreter, (who

WAS

was a Man of Intrigue, had an easie access to the Ministers, and who spar'd nothing on such Occasions (wrought so much by his Goings and Comings, that the Grandees being assembl'd at Night in the King's Palace, the Affair of the Precedency was again started, and very strongly debated: At last it was resolv'd, that Audience should be given the next Day to the *Muscovite*, and that the *French* and the *English* should be put off to that Day eight Days. The first Minister caus'd the Difference to be regulated after that manner, saying amongst other Things; *The Muscovite is our Neighbour, and our Friend, and the Commerce has been a long time settled between us, and without Interruption: We send Embassadors each to the other Reciprocally almost every Year, but we hardly know the others. The Power of their Kings may be as Great as it is Represented, but it is so remote from us, that it is with Difficulty we receive any News of it. It is therefore necessary to have a regard to our Neighbours at any rate.*

The 16th, about eight a Clock in the Morning, the Place Royal appear'd water'd from one end to the other, and adorn'd in the manner I am going to relate. On the Side of the great Entrance to the Royal Palace, at twenty Paces distance, were twelve Horses, the finest in the King's Stables, six on each side, set out in the stateliest and most magnificent Trapping the World can afford.

Four

Four of the said Furnitures or Trappings were adorn'd with Emeralds, two with Rubies, two with Stones of different Colours intermix'd with Diamonds, two with Gold enamell'd, and two others with fine smooth Gold. Besides the Trappings, which were of this Richness, the Saddle, that is to say, the fore and back Part, the Pommel and the Stirrups, were cover'd with Stones suitable to the Trappings, These Horses had large Houfings that hung down very low, some of Gold Brocard, rais'd with Pearls, and others of Gold Brocard very fine, and very thick, encompassed with Tutts, and Balls of Gold beset with Pearls. The Horses were made fast with Tresses of Silk and Gold, to Nails of fine Gold. The Nails are about fifteen Inches long, and of a thickness Proportionable, having a large Ring at the Head, through which the Halter passes, or the String belonging to their Shackles. In Reality, there can be nothing more Stately, nor more Royal than this Equipage, to which must be added twelve covercloaths of Velvet and Gold friz'd, or high napp'd, which serve to cover the Horses from top to bottom that were in Parade before the Rails, which run along the front of the Royal Palace. It is impossible to see finer, whether one considers the richness of the Stuff, or the Art and Delicacy of the Work.

Between the Horses and the Rails were four Cisterns, three Foot high, and large in Proportion, much like those that are made use of in *Paris* to preserve the Water in the Houses. Two of these were of Gold plac'd on Trevets, which were also of massy Gold; the other two were of Silver, plac'd on Trevets of the same Metal. Just by were two large Buckets, and two great Mallets, the largest that are to be seen; all these were likewise of massy Gold even to the very Handles. The Horses are water'd in these Buckets, and the Mallets serve to drive into the Ground, the Nails to which they are made fast. At the Distance of thirty Paces from the Horses, there were wild Beasts train'd up to fight with young Bulls. Two Lyons, one Tyger, and one Leopard which were made fast, each of them lying extended on a large piece of scarlet Tapistry, with their Heads towards the Palace. On the borders of the Tapistry were two Mallets of Gold, and two Basons also of Gold of the Diameter of the largest Cisterns for a Dining-Room. These are to give Food in to these fine Beasts, when they are shown in Publick. Here you must observe, that all the Gold Plate that is in the King's Palace, is Ducat Gold, as I have found by tryal. Right against the great Portal, were two Coaches after the *Indian* Fashion very pretty, with Oxen put to them, after the manner of that Country,

Country, the Coachmen whereof were *Indians*. and clad likewise after the Mode of their own Country. On the Right were two Antelopes, (this is a sort of Hind, having white Hair, and whose Horns are strait like an Arrow, and very long;) and on the Left were two great Elephants cover'd with Cloaths of Gold Brocarde, having Rings at their Teeth, and Chains and Kings of Silver at their Feet; and one Rhinoceros. These Animals were near the one to the other, without shewing the least Aversion or Uneasiness, notwithstanding what the Naturalists say to the contrary, *viz* That the Elephant and the Rhinoceros have an invincible Antipathy, that keeps them constantly at War. At the two ends of the Place, they walk'd up and down in Leashes, the Bulls and the Rams that were train'd up to fight; and there were likewise Companies of Gladiators, Wrestlers and Fencers, all ready to engage at the first Signal that should be given them. In fine, there were in eight or ten Places of the Square, Brigades of the Kings Guards drawn up. and under their Arms.

The Hall that was prepar'd to give the Audience in, was that fine and spacious large Hall, built over the great Portal of the Palace, and is the finest Hall of that fort that I ever saw any where. It was rais'd so high, that when one looks down into the Place, Men seem to be but two Foot high, and when

on the contrary one looks upward from the Place to the Hall, there is no knowing of any Body. I have given the Figure thereof in the Description of *Ispahan*. The King being come thither about nine a Clock, and all the Court, to the Number of above three hundred Persons, there came into the Place from the Eastern Corner, the Ambassador of the *Lesqui*. This is a tributary Nation to *Persia*, and inhabits a mountainous Country on the Confines of the Kingdom towards *Muscovy*, and near the *Caspian* Sea. The Ambassador was a young Nobleman, very handsome, and very well dress'd. He had only two Horsemen to follow him, and four Footmen who surrounded him. An Assistant or Under-Master of the Ceremonies conducted him. He caus'd him to dismount at the Distance of about an hundred Paces from the great Portal, and led him very fast to the large Hall where the King was. The Captain of the Gate, who is call'd *Jehic agasi barchi*, receiv'd him there, and conducted him to the kissing of the King's Feet. Thus they call the Salutation which his Subjects pay him; and all those Strangers who have the Honour to approach him, of what Quality soever they be. *Pabous* is the *Persian* Term, which signifies to kiss the Feet. It is also call'd *Zeminbous*, that is to say, to kiss the Ground, and *Ravi Zemin*, which implies, the Face upon the Ground. This Salutation

is

is perform'd after this manner. The Ambassador or other Person, is conducted to within four Paces of the King, and right against him where they stop him, and make him kneel. and in that Posture he makes three Prostrations of his Body and Head to the Ground, so low, that his Forehead touches it. This done, the Ambassador rises and delivers the Letter he has for the King to the Captain of the Gate, who puts it into the Hands of the first Minister, and he presents it to the King, who puts it on his right Side without looking into it: After this, the Ambassador is conducted to the Place appointed for him.

The *Muscovite* Ambassador appear'd in a quarter of an Hour after. He enter'd from the same Side, having the King's Horses, and being conducted by the Introduc'tor of the Ambassadors; for this Ambassador was so sordid a Wretch, that he did not so much as keep one Horse. The Introduc'tor light off his Horse about a hundred and fifty Paces from the Palace, and bid the Ambassador dismount likewise. I can't tell whether the *Muscovite* had been inform'd, that the Ambassador of the *Lesqui* did not alight from his Horse, till he was much nearer to the Entrance; or whether out of Grandure, and for the Honour of his Master, that he would needs ride further on, be it as it will, he made a Resistance, and clapping Spurs to his
m 2 Horse,

Horse, he made him go on three or four Paces, notwithstanding the Opposition of the Introductors Footmen, who had laid hold of his Horse's Bridle in order to stop him. Thereupon they stop'd him short, and as he made still a Resistance, and was for going forward, the before-mention'd Servants with their Sticks hit the Horse across the Nose to make him fall back, and then the Ambassador was forc'd to alight. He therefore dismounted with two of his Retinue, who follow'd him on Horseback, *viz.* his Interpreter, and his Steward. His other Servants, which were nine or ten in Number, march'd on Foot in a poor Equipage enough for so solemn an Occasion. The Ambassador was clad in a Robe of yellow Satin, over which he had a large Vest of red Velvet lined with *Marten* Furrs, and reach'd down to the Ground. His Cap was also of the same Furr, cover'd with crimson Velvet, and very high imbroider'd with small Pearls before, with two Tresses of Pearls that hung down his Back to his Waist. He was an old Man quite Gray, of a handsome Mean, and very Venerable. His Interpreter march'd on his Left, carrying the Letters from the Great Duke in a Velvet Bag seal'd up. He was conducted to the Place call'd the kissing of the King's Feet, as the Ambassador of the *Lesqui* had been before, and was plac'd right against him on the Left. Next came the
Envoy

Envoy of *Basra*, they made him dismount at the entrance of the Royal Place, and he was conducted in the same manner to the King's Audience. *Besra*, which the *Europeans* call also *Balsura*, is that famous Town at the extremity of the *Persian Gulph*, where the *Tigris* and the *Euphrates* discharge themselves into the Sea.

C H A P. XVIII.

The Ambassador's Presents, the Shews exhibited upon this Occasion; Character of the Persian Courtiers.

THE Presents of these Ambassadors were all this while at the end of the Place, near the Royal Mosque, that is the Staple or Place of Rendezvous to which they are brought, and from whence the Bearers set out, when the King gives Audience in the great Hall that faces the Royal Place. The Godly say, that in making the Presents be brought from the East Side, and before the Mosque is given to understand, that God is the Source, and the Doner of all temporal Goods, insomuch that whatever Men receive, it is a Present from him. These Presents were order'd to set forward, about a quarter of an Hour after the Ambassadors had

taken their Seats. The *Muscovite* Ambassadors pass'd first, carry'd by seventy four Men, and consisted of the following Things.

A large Lantern of Chrystal painted.

Nine small Looking-Glasses of Chrystal, the Frames painted.

Fifty Sables.

A hundred and twenty Yards of red and green Cloth.

Twenty Bottles of the Brandy of *Muscovy*.

That of the Envoy of Basra was ;

An Ostridge, a young Lyon, and three fine *Arabian* Horses.

There had like to have happen'd a pleasant Mistake, which was this ; those Persons who had the Day before been charg'd with Presents of the *French* Company, as has been said, not knowing that the Audience of that Envoy had been put off to another time had brought it to the Place, and were set out after the rest ; but the Receiver of the Presents perceiving the gross Mistake, caus'd the Bearers to be well Can'd, and order'd them to carry the whole back till that Day eight Days.

As soon as the Presents had pass'd by, the Drums, Trumpets, and several other Instruments began to play. This was the Signal for

for the Diversions, and the Combats; and at the same Instant the Wrestlers, the Gladiators, and the Fencers, fell to their respective Engagements. The Keepers of the wild Beasts let them loose upon young Bulls, which were held pretty near, and they who manag'd the Rams and the Bulls train'd up to fight, set them together. Indeed it may be esteem'd rather a Slaughter than a Fight, this Engagement between the wild Beasts and the Bulls. Thus it is perform'd; two Men hold the wild Beasts by a Leash fasten'd about its Neck. The Bull no sooner perceives him coming, but he runs away; the Beast pursues him, and that so swiftly, that in three or four Leaps, it fastens upon him and brings him down; then the Keepers of those Beasts fall upon the Bull, and with Hatchets chop off his Head, and give his Blood to the Beasts. The Reason why they do not suffer the Beasts and the Bull to fight till they kill one another, and that they rush in upon the Bull, is because the Lyon being the Hieroglyphic of the Kings of *Persia*; the Astrologers and the Soothsayers say, it would be an ill Omen, if the Lyon that is let loose upon the Bull, did not intirely vanquish him soon after he had attack'd him. The Show of these different sorts of Fights lasted till eleven a Clock. Those that ensu'd were more Diverting and more Natural. The first consisted of three hundred Horsemen, who

who appear'd at the four Sides of the Square very well mounted, and as richly and finely Clad as one could wish; they were for the most part young Noblemen of the Court, who had all of them several led Horses, they exercis'd themselves for an Hour at the *Mall* on Horseback. At this Exercise the Gamesters divide themselves into two equal Bodies: several Balls are cast into the middle of the Place, and every one has a Mallet given him. To win, the Balls must be made to pass between the two opposite Pillars, which are at the ends of the Place, and serve as Passes. This is no easie Matter, because the adverse Party stop the Balls and drive 'em towards the other end. They are laugh'd at, that strike while their Horse is upon a Walk or stop'd. The Game requires it should be struck only on the Gallop, and those are reputed the best Gamesters, who riding upon full Speed know how to send back the Ball with a dry Blow when it comes to them.

The second Spectacie was that of the Casters of Darts and Javelins; It is called *Grid-Bow* that is to say, the Game of the Dart or Javelin, and they Exercise it after this manner. Twelve or fifteen Cavaliers single themselves out from the rest of the Troop and riding in close Order upon full Speed with their Darts in their Hands, challenge an Engagement, the like Number de-

tack

tach themselves, to go and meet them. They cast their Darts one at another, and then repair to their main Bodies; from whence another Detachment is made like the first, and so after that Manner as long as the Game lasts. Among this fine Body of Noblemen, there were fifteen young Abyssines, about eighteen or twenty Years of Age, who excell'd all the Rest in the Dexterity of casting the Dart or Javelin, as well as in the skilful managing of their Horses, and in the Swiftnes of their Career. They never quitted their Horses to take up their Darts from the Ground neither did they stop them for that purpose; but in a full Career they hung themselves on the Side of their Horses, and gather'd up the Darts with that Dexterity and Gracefulness, that even charm'd all the Beholders.

All these Exercises, which are the * Carroufels of the *Persians*, concluded at One a Clock in the Afternoon, after which the Ambassadors were dismissed. The King did not say one Word to them, nor did not so much as look at 'em. He pass'd the Time in beholding the Games, the Fights, and the Exercises, that were practising in the Square; in hearing the Symphony that was

* An Exercise perform'd on Horse-back on solemn Occasions by Persons of Quality.

performing in the great Hall, and which was composed of the best Voices, and of the best Hands that were in his Pay ; in discoursing with the Grandees of his State, who were then present, and in drinking and eating. As soon as the Ambassadors were enter'd, the whole Assembly was serv'd with a Collation of Fruits, both green and dry'd, and of all sorts of Sweet-meats, wet and dry. These Collations are commonly serv'd up in Basons, much larger than those which are used in our Countries ; they are made of Wood lacker'd, and painted very delicately, and will hold five and twenty or thirty *China* Plates. Each Person has one of these Basons set before him, and sometimes two or three, according as it is intended to do him Honour. At the upper end of the Hall, right against the Entrance, there was a Buffet, one part of which was set out with fifty large Flagons of Gold, filled with several sorts Wine ; some of these Flagons were enamell'd, and others were thick set with Precious Stones, and some were cover'd with Pearls : And the other Part was garnished with between three and fourscore Cups, and a great many Salvers of the same Sort : Some of these Cups will hold three Pints, they are large and flate-bottom'd, mounted on a Foot about two Inches high only. No part of the World can afford any thing more

more magnificent and rich, or more splendid and bright. The Ambassadors drank no Wine; only the *Muscovite* was served with some of his own Country Brandy. I was surpris'd they gave no Wine to that Ambassador, being the King himself drank largely, as well as most of the *Grandees*. I ask'd one of the Noblemen there present the Reason thereof. He answered me, That it was out of Grandure, and the better to preserve the Respect due to his Royal Majesty; and then smiling, he told me further, That it was still kept in Memory, what one of his Country-men had done in a solemn Audience, which he had of the late King. I presently desir'd to be inform'd, what that was. He told me, That in the Year 64 two *Muscovite* Extraordinary Ambassadors, at the Audience the King gave them, drank so excessively, that they quite lost their Senses: The King drank their Master's Health, and would needs have them pledge it in a Cup that held about two Pints: The second Ambassador not being able to digest so much Wine, had a pressing Inclination to vomit, and not knowing where to disembogue, he took his great Sable Cap, which he half fill'd. It is well known, that the *Muscovites* wear large and high Caps. His Collegue, who was above him, and the Secretary of the Embassy, who was below him, enrag'd at so foul an Action,

Action, done in the Presence of the King of *Persia*, and of the whole Court, reprimanded him, and jogg'd him with their Elbows, to remind him of going out. But he being very drunk, and not knowing either what was said to him, nor what he himself did, clap'd his Cap upon his Head, which presently cover'd him all over with Nastiness. The King and all the Assembly broke into a loud Laughter thereat. which lasted about half an Hour, during which time, the Companions of this filthy *Muscovite* were forcing him by dint of Blows with their Fists, to rise and go out. The King was not at all angry ; he only broke up the Assembly, and said, as he went away, That the *Muscovites* were the *Yusbecs* of the *Franks*. He thereby intimated, That as among the *Mahometans*, there is no Nation so nasty, so meanly educated, nor so Clownish as the *Yusbecs*, (who are the *Tartars* along the River *Oxus*) so among the *Europeans*, there was not any that equal'd the *Muscovites* in those foul Qualities.

At noon Dinner was served up ; each Guest had only one Bason set before him, but of a much larger Size than those that are made use of in our Countries. These great Dishes contain'd Pilaw, dress'd after five or six different Ways, with Capons, Lamb, Chickens, Eggs, Meat, Herbs, Salt-Fish,

Fish, and over that a great quantity of several Sorts of roasted Meats. Fifteen Men might, without Exageration, satisfie the sharpest Hunger with one of these Dishes. The Dish that was serv'd up to the King, was brought and plac'd before him on a Hand-barrow of Gold. A large Porrenger of Sherbet was serv'd up with each Dish, as also a Plate of Sallet, and two sorts of Bread. The King withdrew without saying any thing to the Ambassadors, and without so much as turning his Head on their Side. The Ambassador of the Lesqui went out first, and found his Horses at the same Place where he had dismounted. The *Muscovite* Ambassador follow'd him so close, that he saw him take Horse: Thereupon he insisted on having his Horse brought to the same place: But the Introduc'tor of the Ambassadors, who re-conducted him, told him, He had Orders to make him take Horse at the same Place where he had alighted, and that it was the Custom so to do. The *Muscovite* alledg'd the Example of the Lesqui, and protested he would resent the Affront that was put upon him: He threaten'd and storm'd for a quarter of an Hour, stamping and cocking up his Cap in a strange Passion; but after all, he was forc'd to walk on, and go and take his Horses where he had left them. This is the Practice of the *Persians*, thereby to do Honour to their Religion,
and

and to show the Regard they have to those who make Profession thereof. They had sacrific'd to a *Muscovite*, (who seem'd to be no more than a simple Merchant, and to have no other Concerns in *Persia* than those of a small private Commerce) the Envoys of the *French* and *English* Companies, and that, upon Politick Views, as has been already observ'd; They, out of the same Regard, sacrificed the Rank of the *Muscovite*, to the Envoy of the *Lesqui*, who are Tributaries to them, a Mountainous People, and half wild. They were careful, however, in the Honours done to these Envoys; for they caus'd the *Muscovite* Ambassador to be conducted by the Introduc'tor of Ambassadors, while the other was conducted only by an Assistant of the Ceremonies, and made the Presents of the *Muscovite* to pass first. But it is easie to perceive, that in the Distribution of these Honours, the *Lesqui* had the most Essential; for he was plac'd on the King's Right hand; and when the *Muscovite* Ambassador complain'd thereof, he was answer'd, That the Right-hand was given to the *Lesqui*, because he came first. But to speak the Truth it was upon the account of his being a *Mahometan*.

Towards Night, the Introduc'tor of Ambassadors pay'd a Visit to the Envoy of the *French* Company, to assure him, That in a few Days the King would give him Audience.

ence. He immediately sent for the Superior of the *Capuchins* to speak for him. This Father represented the Wrong that was done to the Envoy, in preferring to him, on the one side, a *Muscovite*, a *Lefqui*, and a Deputy of *Basra*; and on the other, in bringing into Dispute, the Right of Precedency which the *French* Nation has over that of the *English*. To all which the Introducator answered, with abundance of fine Words, after the Manner of the Country; for the *Persian* Courtiers never fly into a Passion or Heat, whatever Occasion may be given them. This made a *Portugal* Ambassador say pleasantly enough, speaking of 'em, That the *Persians* never give you ill Language, nor never do you any Good.



C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

Some Jewels sold to the Nazir ; H s Extortion. A fine Present of Sweet-meats made to the Author by the Great Pontif's Wife, and Aunt to the King. The Envy of the French Company, and English Agent, conducted to the r Audience ; with their Presents. An Instance of the Pride of the Persian Kings. The Presents valu'd.

ON the 12th. I fixed the Price for Eleven thousand Livres worth of Jewels with the Nazir. I reckond to give him Three thousand, as well for his Right of two *per Cent.* for what I had sold to the King, as by way of Acknowledgment of his good Offices ; but I was mightily surpriz'd to find, that he pretended to have Eight thousand. This he signify'd to me by his first Secretary, and by the Chief of the Goldsmiths. He observ'd, from the Place where he was with what Air I should receive the Proposition. I therefore told these Gentlemen, with all the usual Exagerations of the Country, That the Nazir might, if he pleas'd, take all that I was worth, because it was impossible for me to make a sufficient Acknowledgment of all his Favours to me ; but as I had lost a great deal in the Bargain I sold
to

thousand Livres, for the Eleven thousand worth which he had of mine in Jewels. As he saw that I oppos'd it, he told me very coolly, That he could not, nor would not force me ; and that I might take back my Jewels, and dispose of them as I pleas'd.

I was very much troubled, to resolve what I should do in this Critical Juncture, being on the one side spurr'd on by Acknowledgment and Fear ; and on the other, not being able to determine my self, to make such large Presents. While I was in this doubtful State, the Chief of the Goldsmiths took me aside, and told me, not to lose the Friendship of the Nazir for a hundred Pistoles, he being in great Favour with the King. In fine, I resolv'd to be a Loser, and therefore desir'd the Chief of the Goldsmiths to accommodate the Mater, at a Five thousand Livres Present. This was accordingly done, and the Nazir sent for Two thousand Crowns, which were paid me down before him. He caress'd me very much afterwards, and invited me to follow the King in the Progress he was going to make to *Casbin*, which is the Antient *Arsatia*, promising, that the Prince should allow me a Pension, and defray my Charges. After this he bid me go to the Envoy of the *French Company*, and tell him from him, That he had read to the King the Petition which he had presented, in order to obtain the Precedency

cedency of the *English* Agent; and that he had back'd it with such strong Reasons, that the Prince had made Answer, that he would give Audience to the *French* first; however the Success did not agree with the Promise, for he gave it to both the Envoys at the same time, as it shall be seen hereafter.

On the 19th, the Princess, the King's Aunt and Wife to the Great Pontif, sent me by six Men, four large Basons of Sweet-meats, with Pots of Sherbet, some Loaves of amber'd Shugar, Marchpanes, and other sweet Things of the like Nature. I was agreeably surpriz'd at this fine Present, which was so genteel and curiously Perfum'd; but I was very much perplex'd, what Thanks I should return to the Princess. The next Day after, the Eunuch she employ'd to speak to me, took upon him to do it for me: I make no doubt but he discharg'd the part very well, for the Eunuchs have most commonly fine Tongues. Smooth, Flattering and Insinuating, and know wondrously well how to find the way to the Heart.

On the 20th, I went and paid a Visit to the chief of the *Goldsmiths*, and carry'd him five hundred Crowns for his Right of two *per Cent*. He was contented therewith, and told me amongst other Things, that for his Part, he hated the cheating Tricks of the *Persians*; that he took what was his due, and did not desire any more.

On the 21st, the Envoy of the *French* Company had Audience of the King at the same Place, and almost in the same manner, as it had been given on the 16th to the other Envoys. He was brought about eight a Clock by the Introduc^tor of Ambassadors, who made him dismount at the Distance of a hundred and fifty Paces from the Royal Palace. The Introduc^tor walk'd before him. He had his Second, his Chirurgeon, and his Interpreter at his Side; this last holding with both his Hands, in a Purse embroider'd with Gold, the Letter which had been Counterfeit^d in the Name of the *French* Company, to the King of *Persia*. Then follow'd two of his Domesticks, his twelve Guards, and several Footmen, People of the Country cloath'd after their manner, in a very fine Equipage. The Envoy was conducted to a high-rais'd Seat under the Great Portal on the left. The Introduc^tor went afterwards and fetch'd the Agent of the *English* Company, whom he brought after the same manner; he was follow'd by his Second, and by two Clerks, four Interpreters, and by ten Footmen, all well clad after the Fashion of the Country. He was led to the Seat that was opposite to that where the *French* were, and right against it. *Mirhagez* the *Arabian*, and Captain of the Caravans of the Pilgrims that go to *Mecca*, by the way of *Basra*, was introduc'd afterwards

wards by one of the Assistants of the Ceremonies.

About two a Clock, these Envoys were conducted to Audience; the *Frenchman* first, each having his Interpreter, and two Persons to follow him; and about a quarter of an Hour after, their Presents were order'd to pass along. That of the *Frenchman* consisted of the following Things.

A Chain of Emeralds and Diamonds.

An Emerald Ring.

A Ring, with a Balass Ruby.

A pictur'd Box set with Diamonds and Emeralds, with the King's Picture enamell'd, the back Part being of inlaid Work.

Two large Branches of Christal.

Four Looking-Glasses of Christal five Foot high, three with a Frame of Brass gilt, the other with a Christal Frame.

Picture of the King of *France* at full Length, in a Frame of Wood gilt.

A Bag of Ambergreese weighing 58 Ounces.

Two Bottles of the Essence of Cloves.

Four Pieces of Gold Brocard, twenty Yards in each Piece.

Three Pieces of Sattin.

Five * Marcs of Gold ank Silk Lace.

* *A Weight of Eight Ounces.*

Seven Pieces of white Cloth, of the finest that is made in *India*, each Piece containing four Yards and a half.

Six Pieces of Tapistry of Silk and Gold.

Two thousand thirty three Yards of the Cloth of *Paris*.

Four Telescopes, each three Foot long.

Three hundred and six Pieces of *China* Ware of different Sizes.

Seventy Pounds of Tea.

Four large Basons fill'd with Wax-Candles of *Goa*.

Four Guns Damas'd, of a fine and neat Work.

Two Pair of Pistols of the same.

Four Cannon of a new Invention upon their Carriages.

Two Culverins finely Engraven, with the Arms of the Company on the Embrasure.

Fifty Bales of Pepper, each weighing a hundred and thirty Pounds.

The Present of the *English* came after, and consisted of the following Things.

Twenty Pieces of *English* Cloth.

Forty Caps or Turbants of Silk and Gold of different Prices.

Forty Pieces of Sattin of different Sorts.

Thirty Pieces of Taffaty.

Twelve Pieces of Taffaty strip'd with Gold and Silver.

Twelve Pieces of Damask.

Forty Cases of Knives and Forks with Amber Hafts.

The Present of *Mir-hagez* follow'd, consisting of five fine *Arabian* Horses of a compleat Furniture of Vermillion guilt, with a Caparison of Cloth of Gold.

After these Presents came two others, the one was the Governors of *Jaron* presented by his Son. It consisted of six fine Horses, thirty Pieces of the finest printed Callicoes, and twenty Pieces of Gold Brocard.

The other Present was from the Governor of *Guenja*, which is a Town in *Armenia*, and consisted only of Hounds.

From the Place whence the King look'd into the Square, it was impossible for him to discern any Thing of these Presents. The King's of *Persia* are so accustom'd to receive Presents, that they don't vouchsafe to look at them. The Ministers tell him from what Place the Present comes, and of what it consists ; and when the King ask to see any particular Thing, it is sent into the *Seraglio*, or to the Place the King appoints.

To speak the Truth, it is out of Pride that they receive the Presents at so great a Distance, and with so much Indifferency ;

for they mean thereby, that they are not worthy to be brought before their Eyes. After the Presents had pass'd by, the Envoys were entertain'd as the Ambassadors of *Moscou*, and of the *Lesqui* had been the Week before, with the like Spectacles and Diversions and with a Feast altogether of the same kind, excepting that they had no Wine or Brand: A little before Dinner, the King sent for the Son of the Governor of *Jarron*; he enter'd into the Hall, Saluted the King after the *Persian* manner, and presented his Father's Letter without saying one Word, neither did the Prince say one Word to him. The King does this out of Grandeur, and to make his own Subjects and Foreigners pay him the greater Respect. The late King his Father was more affable both to the one and the other, he would cause the Ambassadors and Envoys to approach him several times, during the Entertainment at their Audience, and would Discourse with them about their Affairs, or at least of indifferent Things. Every time I had the Honour to approach him, and I had that Honour five times in the ten Weeks that I was at his Court in the Year 1666, he always did me the favour to speak to me; it is true, it was not directly, for he would impart his Thought to the Nazir, the Nazir would bring it to my Interpreter, and my Interpreter would signifie it to me; and ha-

ving

ving receiv'd my Answer, it pass'd to his Majesty thro' the same Channel. If I had at that time understood the *Turkish* or *Persian* Language, as I have since learnt the last, that good Prince in all likelyhood would not have made so much ado.

Upon the 22^d. a Price was set on the Presents of the Envoys ; it is the Custom in *Persia*, to carry the Present that is made to the King into a large Apartment of the Royal Palace, which is call'd *Chiracone*, that is to say, the House of Wine, because it is the Buffet, and the Magazine where all the Wine for the King's drinking is kept. The Presents are consign'd to the chief of the King's Battery, who is the Superintendant of that Apartment ; the Price is set thereon some Days after according to the Valuation of the Merchants, and those that are best skill'd therein. Each part of the Present is afterwards distributed to those of the King's Officers, who have the charge of Things of the same Nature. The Tapistry for Example is delivered into the Magazine of the Place, where the Royal Manufacture thereof is practis'd ; the Arms and Cannon are put in the *Arsenal*. The Jewels are laid up in the Treasury, and so of the rest. The particular Intendants of each respective Apartment, enter the same into their Books. The Present is likewise Register'd in the Chamber of Accompts belonging

longing to the Demefn ; and it is enroll'd in fo many Registers, that it is impoffible that any part thereof fhould be loft. If they had a mind to know one by one, all the Presents which have been made to the Kings of *Persia* for thefe two hundred Years, nothing would be eafier, and the detail thereof would be readily found.

I was fent for by the Nazir's Order to the Valuation of the Presents; I went accordingly, having firft acquainted the Envoys therewith. and ask'd them, whether they defir'd their Things fhould be apprais'd according to their juft Value, or whether at a higher or lower Rate. I ask'd this Queftion, becaufe the Presents which are made to the King, pay a Duty of five and twenty *per Cent.* ready Money to the Officers of his Houfehold, which is taken according to the Valuation that is made thereof; and let that be well or ill done, the Perfon who made the Prefent is obliged to acquiefce, and to pay the five and twenty *per Cent.* On this Confideration it is really a Damage to an Ambaffador, to value his Prefent at a high Rate; but then in another Refpect, the Lofs fo fustain'd is again Recover'd; becaufe as the King and the Minifters caufe an Information to be given them of the Value of the Presents, in order that a due Regard may be had thereto, in the Requests that are made them; there

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one finds one Account to have a Present over valud. I went to the Assignation about nine a Clock, where I found the Prevost of the Merchants, a Comptroler from the Palace, the chief of the *Goldsmiths*, the Intendants of the Manufactures of the Stuffs of Gold and Silk, the great Master of the Artillery, the chief of the Painters, and ten or twelve of the most considerable Merchants of *Ispahan*. They had begun the Appraisement. The Presents of the Envoy of the *French* Company, without comprising the Cannon, were valu'd at near twenty thousand Crowns. Those of the Envoy of the *English* Company, were esteem'd at three thousand five hundred Crowns. This being done, each Thing was set in its proper Place, according to what has been already said; the Looking-Glasses, the Branches, the Pistols, the Picture, and the Telescopes, were carry'd to the common Treasury, which is in the Castle of *Ispahan*, where all these Things will be consum'd and destroy'd by Time and the Dust, with a multitude of other Pieces of the same Nature, which the *Europeans*, and among the rest the *Muscovites*, the *Turks*, and the *Armenians*, have presented to the Kings of *Persia* within these two hundred Years. The Reason thereof is, that those Things not being us'd in that Country, they let them go to decay in some corner or other, not think-

thinking it Consistant with the Honour and Grandure of the King, either to have them sold, or give them away. The Pepper, the Tea, the Amber, and the Oil of Cloves, were carry'd to the *Cherbet-Cane*, (this is the Magazine of Liquors.) The *China Ware* remain'd in the *Buffet*, and the Stuffs in fine were distributed into several of the King's Ward Robes, there being one for each sort of Stuff.

C H A P. XX.

An occasional Conversation concerning the two Audiences. A Molla or Priest Bastinadoed, the Reason. The French Envoys Presents to the Ministers. The Muscovite Envoy has a Conference with the Ministers. Several Conjectures about his Negotiations. Exactness with which the Great Men in Persia are obeyd. First Establishment of the English in Persia.

THE same Day I being at Dinner with the Nazir, the Conversation fell upon the two Audiences, which we have related, upon the *Europeans* in General; and in fine, on the Contests which had happen'd between the Envoy of the *French Company*, and that of the *English Company* about the
 Prece-

Precedency. I was ask'd whether in *Europe*, those trifling empty Subjects were very much insisted on; I smiling made Answer, that they had good Reason in my Opinion to speak so of Disputes of that Nature; but that however in *Europe*, they were not counted so. That there they were looked upon as essential Things, and that not only the Kingdoms fought for the Precedency, but that there was hardly any private Person but who had an Attention thereto, and was chary of his Rank, as of his chiefest Interest. The Master of the Horse, who was present, said then, That the *Mahometans* were very happy, in their being cur'd of those Infirmities, and in their not having plac'd Honour in such troublesome and dangerous Chimæra's.

They thereupon related, amongst other things, That the First Minister had that Morning caus'd Two hundred Strokes to be given on the Soles of the Feet to a Molla, or Doctor, because some Inferior Officers of the Ordnance had presented Petitions to him, which this Doctor had written, and where the Sense was so confus'd and perplex'd with Compliments, and odd Canting Stuff, that it was a difficult Matter to penetrate into the Meaning thereof, with ever so great an Attention. After this miserable Wretch had receiv'd so severe a Punishment, the first minister caus'd him to be brought
before

before him (for he was not in a Condition to walk). A Great Vizier said he to him, *has other Business to do than to read thy sorry Compliments, and to unravel and disintangle the Chans of the Petitions thou writest: Use a more simple and clear Style, or else do not write for the Publi k; for otherwise I'll cause thy Hands to be cut off*

On the 23d, that Minister delivered to the *Portuguese* Renegade, who was the King's Interpreter, the Letters which the Envoys had presented to the King, and to the Nazir. This Renegade, who made the *Persians* believe that he understood all the Languages of *Europe*, tho' he really knew no other than his Native Tongue, went and carry'd the Letters to the *Portuguese* Augustins, Missionaries at *Ispahan*, believing they would be able to explain them to him, but he found them as incapable of it as he was himself. They sent for the Interpreter of the *Hollanders*: He is an *Arabian*, who had been a long time in *Europe*, and has a great Talent for Languages: He was glad to have those Letters in his Hands, that he might be able to give a Copy thereof to his Masters, who are very curious to know the Affairs of other People, but more especially those which have any relation to theirs, and any-wise concern the Commerce; but however, he could not translate the King of *England's* Letter, as not understand-
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ing *English*: He render'd the other two into *Persian*.

On the 24th, the Envoy of the *French Company* sent to the Ministers, the Presents which he had prepar'd for them ; To wit, To the *Etmadulet*, or Grand Vizier.

Seventeen Ounces of *Ambergrease*.

Two *Chals*, or *Indian Sashes*, which were very fine.

Six *Turbants* of Silk, Gold, and Silver.

A small *Clock*.

A *Watch*.

Twelve Pounds of *Tea*.

To the Great Master, or High Steward,

Seventeen Ounces of *Ambergrease*.

Three *Turbants*, of Silk, Gold and Silver.

Three *Sashes*.

Three *Watches*.

Twelve Pounds of *Tea*.

Fifteen hundred *Crowns* in Ready-Money:

To *Mirzataber*, Comptroller of the King's Household,

Two *Turbants*.

Four fine *Indian Pieces* of *Printed Callicoe*.

Thirty-four Pieces of *China Ware*, of different Sizes.

Three Pounds of *Cloves*.

Three Pounds of *Cinnamon*.

Three Pounds of *Tea*.

Three

Three Pounds of *Cardamum*.

Fifty *Nutmegs*.

Thirty Pounds of *Pepper*.

One hundred and fifty *Crowns* in Ready-Money.

The same Day, about Ten a-Clock in the Morning, the *Muscovite* Ambassador was brought upon the Kings Horses to an Apartment of the Royal Palace, whither the Grand Vizier and the other Principal Ministers of the Council being come soon after, he was two Hours in Conference with them: He was entertain'd afterwards: The Feast was sumptuous in Meats and Liquors, but there was neither Wine nor Brandy.

The Negotiation of this Ambassador was kept secret enough. The Ministers gave out, That his Commission was to make known to the King of *Persia*, that his Master would send an Ambassador Extraordinary to him in a little time. But it was known afterwards, that he came to propose to the King, to enter into the League which the Great Duke had lately made with the *Polanders* against the *Turks*, The King of *Persia* would not hearken to it: He nevertheless promis'd, That if the *Muscovites* and the *Polanders* were once heartily engag'd in a War against the *Turks*, and would afterwards give Sureties not to make a Peace without him, he would then take to his
Arms,

Arms, and fall upon *Bagdad*. This was the Answer which was given to the Ambassador, and upon which he was dispatched. He press'd hard to have a more precise one, but the First Minister stopp'd his Mouth, by telling him; That the Christians had often engag'd the Kings of *Persia* in a joint War with them against the *Turks*; and had afterwards made a separate Peace without their Participation.

On the 27th, the First Minister sent for me very early in the Morning, and in great Haste. I was not yet up, and my Groom and Footman were both gone out. I therefore told the Messengers, That they might go back, and that as soon as my Servants came in, I would wait upon their Master. *How Sir*, said they, smiling, *don't you know that we dare not return without bringing you along with us?* In saying that, one of them run to the Stable to saddle me a Horse; another offer'd to dress me, and I was oblig'd to suffer it. As I was going down Stairs, four more Horse-men came to bid me make haste. I was a little unwilling to go without a Footman, it being the Custom to have always one or two with one through the Streets of *Ispahan*, by reason of the Crowds of People. But they told me, That as I went, they would make way for me, and that at my Return, they would order me some Footmen. I observe this, that the

Reader may know, with what Dispatch the Orders of the Great Men are executed in *Persia*. An Officer dare not tell his Master who has sent him to fetch any Person to him, that he has not found him, or that he was not at home, or that he can't come; he is obliged to find him, and bring him, or otherwise the Negligence of the Messenger is punish'd with a good Cudgelling. I went as fast as my Conductors pleas'd, as well out of Complaisance to them, as thereby to know the sooner what I was wanted for, which made me somewhat uneasy. The First Minister told me, He had sent for me to translate the King of *England's* Letter, and that of the *French* Company. He deliver'd them into my Hands at the same time, and commanded two Secretaries to conduct me into a Closet, and to take the Translation of those Letters. I cannot tell whether the first Version he had caused to be made of them pleas'd him, or not, or whether he had a mind to have a Plurality of Translations for his greater Satisfaction. I put them into the *Persian* Language, the best I could, and took Copies likewise of each. That of the King of *England* was written in *English*, upon a large Sheet of Vellum, in Golden and black Letters, the upper Part, and the Sides, for the Breadth of about Six Inches, were painted in Miniature. The King's Picture, his Arms,

Arms, his Motto, and his Cyphers, were there incas'd in a Frize of Moreſque-Work. Before I give a Copy thereof, I ſhall lay down a ſhort Account of the firſt Eſtabliſhment of the *English* in *Persia*.

The *English* went for the firſt time into *Persia*, about the Year 1613. They were well enough receiv'd by the *Persians* at *Bandar-abassi*, but the *Portuguese* gave them a very bad Reception at *Ormuz*, which is an Iſland but three Leagues diſtant from *Bandar-abassi*. The *Portuguese*, who were ſole Maſters of the Commerce throughout all the *Indies*, not being willing to ſhare any thereof to theſe new Comers, but on the contrary, being reſolv'd to oppoſe their Undertaking as much as they could; they thwarted them on all Occaſions, and amongſt other Hardſhips, they made them pay at *Ormuz*, (where lay the main Traffick of the Gulph of *Persia*) more Duties, than all the other Nations. *Abas the Great*, the then King of *Persia*, who was very well inform'd of what paſs'd among the *Europeans* in thoſe Parts, caus'd an Offer to be made to the *English*, of the Trade in his Ports of the Continent. He ſent them Preſents: He allur'd ſome of them to his Court, where he careſs'd 'em very much; and in fine, in the Year 1620, he engag'd them in a League with him, to drive the *Portuguese* out of the Gulph of *Persia*. He was not

less incens'd against them, than the *English*, because they, on all Occasions, loaded his Subjects with Injuries and Affronts, and obstructed their Traffick. There was no passing safely to the *Indies* but in *Portuguese* Ships. Now when any *Persian* Merchants went to *Ormuz*, to desire a Passage of the *Portuguese*, the Chief of them at *Ormuz* would ask them, What they would go to the *Indies* to do? And what sort of Merchandize they wanted to buy? And when they had told them, they would lead them to the Magazine of the Place, and there showing them great quantities of those Goods, would say to them; there is what you want, buy that first, and then if you have any Money left to lay out, I'll order you a Passage to the *Indies*. With this Severity did the *Portuguese* oblige foreign Merchants either to return without doing any Thing, or else to buy the Goods they wanted of them, at what rate they pleas'd.

Abas complain'd several times of this Usage to the Governor of *Ormuz*, but all the Answers he receiv'd were so haughty and offensive, that they afforded fresh Matter of Complaint. This Great Prince therefore, resolv'd to ruin so insufferable a Power; he wanted Ships to transport his Troops to *Ormuz*, which was the chief Fortress the *Portuguese* had in the *Persian* Gulph, and that which most annoy'd the Coasts of *Persia*; he

he propos'd to the *English* to joyn with him, which they accepted. The Treaty contain'd; ' That they should attack at their com-
' mon Expences, what the *Portuguese* held
' in the Gulph. That the *English* should
' transport the *Persians* to the Isle of *Ormuz*,
' and to those in the Neighbourhood there-
' of; and during the Siege, should hinder
' any Succours coming by Sea; that the
' Places which should be taken, should re-
' main to the *Persians*, but that the Pillage,
' and all that should be found therein, should
' be equally divided. That the Traffick
' should be transferr'd to *Bandar-Abassi*,
' where the *English* should not only be free
' from all sorts of Duties, but should like-
' wise have an equal Share with the *Persi-*
' *ans*, of all the Customs and Duties laid on
' Goods imported, on Condition however,
' that they should maintain four Men of War
' in the Gulph, or two at least, in order to
' secure the Navigation to the Merchants.

This Treaty procur'd the taking of *Or-*
mus from the *Portuguese*, in the Year 1623,
and of two other Islands just by, but since
it has receiv'd continual Infractions on both
Sides. The *Persians* who are not Sincere
enough in the Observance of Contracts, and
who slip no Opportunity that offers to
Cheat and Trick, have not kept their Word
with the *English*, whom they thought suf-
ficiently paid for what they had Contributed

to the taking of *Ormus*, by the rich Booty they there found, and by the Traffick which they could not obtain before; whereas they ought to have consider'd, that it was to the *English* that they ow'd the taking of those important Places, and the Liberty of their Coasts, and of their Commerce. They every Year defrauded the *English* of some part of their half of the Customs of *Bandar-Abassi*, and at last they proceeded so far, as to give them only eight or ten thousand Crowns for their half. notwithstanding the whole amounted to seven or eight hundred thousand Livres; and what is superlatively unjust, they oblige the *English* Agent to give them an Acquittance for one half of the Customs aforesaid, without which they wont pay him any Thing; the Pretext they make use of to palliate this Injustice, is, that the *English* have not maintain'd any Ships of War in the Gulph, as they were oblig'd to do by the Treaty. They compel them also to pass under their Name, Goods that do not belong to them, and to transport great Sums of Gold and Silver out of the Kingdom, contrary to the Prohibitions made against so doing. The *English* were for a long time oblig'd to pass the same, wherever the *Persians* had a mind, not knowing how to do better; but reflecting on the Wrong that was done them, the *English* Company address'd the King of *England* in
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the Year 1670, and begg'd his Majesty would write to the King of *Persia* in favour of their lawful Pretentions. The Envoy of the *English* Company obtain'd Letters Patent from the King of *Persia*, to the Farmers of *Bandar-Abassi*, to pay five and forty thousand Livres *per Annum* to the *English*, besides their exemption from paying any Customs for any Thing that belong'd to them; but as the *English* Company was not satisfy'd with this Grant, it pray'd his Britannick Majesty afresh, to give it another Letter that might be still more pressing to the King of *Persia*, which was done, and it was that Letter I was ask'd to interpret. Here is a Copy of it.

' Charles the Second, by the Grace of God,
 ' King of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and
 ' *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith; to the
 ' high and potent Monarch *Cha Soliman*,
 ' Emperor of *Persia*, *Media*, and *Hircania*,
 ' and of several other vast Countries and
 ' Lordships. We have been inform'd by
 ' the Directors of the *East-India* Company,
 ' of the Elevation of your Majesty to the
 ' Throne of your famous Ancestors, and
 ' of the Peace and Tranquility which that
 ' great and mighty Empire of *Persia* enjoys
 ' under the Obedience of your Majesty;
 ' We thereupon with Pleasure Congratulate
 ' your Majesty, and most earnestly wish,
 ' that the Happiness and Prosperity which

‘ it now enjoys may increase, and last as
‘ long as it is possible; and that the Omni-
‘ potent God will preserve and surround
‘ you with Glory, and heap upon you all
‘ the Blessings of Body and Mind. The said
‘ *East India* Company has in most humble
‘ manner represented to us, that about fifty
‘ Years ago, it made a Treaty with the fa-
‘ mous *Cha Abas*, one of the most renown’d
‘ Predecessors of your Majesty, by which that
‘ great Prince in Consideration of the great
‘ and important Services this Company had
‘ done him at her own Expence, and par-
‘ ticularly for the Assistance and Succour
‘ she supply’d him with to enable him to
‘ take the Castle of *Kichmich*, and the Ca-
‘ stle, Town and Isle of *Ormus*, granted to
‘ her amongst other Priviledges and Advan-
‘ tages, one half of the Duties of the Cu-
‘ stoms which are paid by all the Merchants
‘ who trade on the side of *Ormus*, as well
‘ by Sea as by Land, as appears by the 3d
‘ Article of the said Treaty. Now this
‘ Company complains, that for several Years
‘ past your Majesties Officers deprive her
‘ Agents of the greatest part of the said Du-
‘ ties, and let them have so slender a Share of
‘ the Revenues of these Customs, that most
‘ commonly what they give them, is less
‘ than a thousand Tomans, notwithstand-
‘ ing the Revenue thereof amounts to above
‘ thirty thousand Tomans yearly. We there-
‘ fore

‘ fore desire, with a great deal of Affection,
‘ that a due Regard being had to the anci-
‘ ent Friendship, and good Correspondence
‘ that is between the two Nations as ought
‘ to be, the Exposition and Remonstrance
‘ which we make with a sincere Heart, of
‘ the Wrong and Damages which are done
‘ to this Company, will prevail with your
‘ Majesty to cause Justice to be done her ;
‘ and that your Majesty will give Orders,
‘ that she may be satisfy’d and paid the Ar-
‘ rears of those Duties of the Customs, that
‘ is to say, what was wanting to what has
‘ been paid her heretofore to make up her
‘ just half. We also desire that your Ma-
‘ jesty will make a firm and unalterable Set-
‘ tlement thereof for the future, and will
‘ give an absolute Command to your Offi-
‘ cers and Ministers, that for the time to
‘ come they satisfy the Agents of the said
‘ Company, with one intire half of the Cu-
‘ stoms in a just Measure and Proportion,
‘ pursuant to the Tenor of the aforemen-
‘ tion’d Treaty ; to the end, that sincere
‘ Friendship and good Correspondence which
‘ has endur’d so many Years between the
‘ two Nations, may continue without any
‘ Violation or Alteration. Hereupon we
‘ recommend your Majesty to the Protection
‘ of the Omnipotent.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXI.

The first Minister's Resentment shown to the English. Blunders in the Letters of the French Envoy. The King begins his Tour of Casbin. Superstition observ'd. The sumptuousness of his Travelling Buffet.

THE first Minister was so vext to see the *English* were not contented with what he had done in their favour two Years before, but made fresh Application, that he could not smother his Resentment. He told the Interpreter of the *English* Company one Day, when he earnestly sollicitated for a more favourable Composition than the first was ; It is thou that dost encourage the *English* to tire us with reiterated Demands ; thou put'st two Ells of Scarlet with a little Tinsel, on the Back of a Clerk, and mak'st him an Ambassador to us. *Persia* has paid the *English* a thousand times over for the Service they reproach us with so much, and which is the only one we ever have receiv'd from them. It was not we who first began to infringe the Treaty, the *English* were the first who did it, and we should be well grounded if we had not further regard at all thereto. The *English* Agent could
obtain

obtain nothing more, but that he might not be sent back altogether empty, he had a new dispatch of the Letters Patent of the Year 1670, and a Letter for the King of *England*, which was seal'd. To speak the Truth, there is no excusing the *Persians* on that Head, for Treaties ought to be always observ'd in their full Extent ; but it must nevertheless be own'd, that they are to be commended for letting the *English* trade throughout their Empire free from all manner of Duties, and to pay them every Year fifty thousand Livres for a Service done fifty Years before ; for which one may say, they were even then Superabundantly paid.

As for the Letters of the Envoy of the *French* Company, to the King and the *Nazir*, they were Pieces too ill contriv'd to bear being made Publick. They bore Date from the first of *May*, 1671. yet nevertheless mention was made therein of the great Victories obtain'd by the King of *France* over the *Hollanders*, which did not happen till the Year following, and of their total Ruin and Destruction which was near at hand ; those are the Terms, and thus it is that the *Monks* confound and lose themselves, when they intermeddle with the Affairs of the World ; for it was the Superior of the *Capuchins* Missionaries at *Ispahan*, who had compos'd those Letters, and who directed the whole Embassy. The *English* and the *Dutch*
made

made these Contradictions very sensibly plain, and the *Persians* themselves easily perceiv'd that those Letters were forg'd, and particularly by this, that they made mention of two Envoys equal in Quality and Collegues; and yet the Letter which Monsieur *Guefton* had writ to the Nazir at his arrival at *Bandar-Abassi*, and those of the Governor, and of the King's People from that Place, which gave Advice of his coming, made no mention but of him only as Envoy, so that it was a notorious Truth that he had neither Colleague nor Second. They knew very well besides, that after his Death all the Persons of his Retinue were a long time resolving what they should do, and that for some Days they told every Body, and even signify'd to the Governor of *Chiras*, that they would return back to *Bandar-Abassi*, as not having any Commission to proceed further.

I have heard related at the Nazir's, a comical Thing enough concerning these Letters, which was, that as he was reading them to the King, a pleasant thought came into that Princes Head, upon the Names of the Envoy's of the Company; this was call'd *de Joncheres*, a Word which if pronounc'd ill in the *Persian*, signifies a young Lyon, and one of the three first Envoys was nam'd *Beber*, which signifies an old Tiger. The King hearing these Names repeated, stopp'd
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the Nazir, saying, what do they write, these *French* Merchants, that they first send an old Tyger, and that at present they sent a young Lyon? These Equivocations made him laugh heartily, and all those who were about him.

On the 28th, I went and acquainted the *French* and *English* Envoys, that I had put their Letters into the *Persian* Language by the Order of the first Minister. The *English* Envoy shew'd himself very glad thereat, and thank'd me, assuring me, that the *English* Company would hold it self very much oblig'd to me on that Account. In Reality, he had reason to be pleas'd that I had made the Translation thereof, because I had preserv'd to the Original all its Force and Energy, which is what the People of the Country dare not do, for fear of drawing upon themselves the Indignation of the Ministers, by saying something that might Displease, tho' they only do it in Obedience to Command. As for the other, I could discover through his Thanks, that he was very sorry I had seen his Letters, because it was impossible for the Forgery not to be plain and obvious to the Eyes of a *Frenchman*.

Upon the first of *October*, the King left *Ispahan* at three a Clock in the Morning to begin his Journey to *Casbin*, which is the ancient *Arsatia*, and alighted at the House of *Hazar-gerib*, which is at the end of the
Place

Place where they take the Air at *Ispahan*, and about half a League from his Palace. The Astrologers made him rise at that early Hour, to go so little a way as half a League, by reason it was the lucky Moment of a favourable Constellation to begin so great a Progress. His Mother and his favourite Ladies set out at the same time.

On the Second, I went in the Morning to the *Chiraconé*, which is the King's Side-Board, to see it pack'd up for the Journey. The Intendant or Overseer thereof, who is call'd in *Persia Chi-rachi-baubi*, which is to say, the chief of the Purveyors of Wine, was so kind as to show me all the finest Things that he had in his keeping. It consisted of several Sets of Dozens of Spoons, of Vessels, Cups, Salvers, Dishes, Basons, large Tankards, Water-pots, Boats, Bottles, Spitting-pots, all which were of Gold, either enamel'd, set with precious Stones, or curiously garnish'd with Pearls; there is nothing there but fine Gold, either delicately wrought, or finely set. It is incredible, the vast Quantity, and the Value of this Plate; there are Cups so large, that one cannot hold them in one Hand when they are full. There are also Drinking-Cups made like Ladles, which are frequently us'd at the King's Table, and are call'd *Azar-peché*, that is to say, a thousand Chimera's. This is to express, that one is so drunk when one has taken off some of them,

them, that one's Head is all in Confusion. Some of these Cups hold only half a Pint, the largest hold three Pints, the ordinary ones hold a Quart. What seem'd most Royal to me, was a Dozen of Spoons a Foot long, and large in Proportion made, to drink Broth out of, and other Liquors; the Bowl of the Spoon was of Gold enamel'd, the Handle was cover'd with Rubies, the end was a large Diamond of about six Carats. This Dozen of Spoons might be worth sixteen thousand Crown. One must not wonder that the Handle of them is a Foot long, because as throughout the East, they eat on the Ground, and not upon Tables, one would be oblig'd to stoop too low to take up the Broth, if the Spoons were not so long. The greatest part of all these Pieces are old fashion'd; without seeing ones self, the vast quantity there is of them, there is no believing what can be said thereof. I have try'd several times to know, to what Value the whole might amount in the Registers, for it is set down and exactly known, but I never could find it out; all the Answer I could get, was, that it was worth an immense Sum, and that the Account thereof was infinite. I am perswaded after what I have seen of it, that there is to the worth of several Millions. The head Butler told me one Day, that the King's Buffet contain'd four thousand Pieces, or Utensils, all of Gold, or embelish'd with Gold

Gold and precious Stones, as I have already said This Lord gave me a Dinner, and made me drink of several sorts of Wine and Brandy, so much, that my Head turn'd round in a quarter of an Hour ; for those Wines are mighty strong, and the Brandy's still more Violent. If the Brandy is not as strong as Spirits of Wine, it does not please in *Persia*, and the Wine that is most esteem'd there, is that which is most Intoxicating, and fuddles soonest. He treated me like a *Persian*, thinking it was entertaining me finely, to make me drunk presently. Wine in the *Persian* Language is call'd *Cherab*, a Term which in its Etymology denotes all sorts of Liquor. The word Sherbet, and that of Syrup, come from that of *Cherab*, which the devout *Mahometans* have in such an Abhorrence, by reason Wine Intoxicates, that it is a piece of ill Breeding to pronounce it in their Presence.



C H A P.

C H A P. XXII.

A Bargain of a thousand Pistols concluded with the Pontif's Lady for Jewels, the Value paid in Gold Plate. Contests concerning Fees due to some of the Ministers. Conferences of the French and English Envoys with the Ministers of State. The Princess, the Pontif's Wife, shows her fine Jewels to the Author.

ON the 3d, I concluded a Bargain of a thousand Pistols, with the Great Pontif's Lady, who was Sister to the late King, as I have already observ'd. The Bargain being made, she sent me word, that as she was to go along with the Court, she should have occasion for her ready Money, but that she gave me my choice, either to take an Order to be paid in two Months, or to take Gold Plate. I accepted of the Gold, and I was put off till the Evening; but I was no sooner come according to the Appointment, than an Eunuch who was the Princess's Steward, brought a flat Bason that weigh'd six hundred Ounces within a very little. I had taken along with me an *Indian* Banker, very well skill'd in Gold and Silver; he touch'd the Bason in several Places; and judg'd it to be Gold of three and twenty Carats and a half, and told me he would warrant it at that rate. I bargain'd for it at

fifty six Livres *per* Ounce ; I would have willingly bought the whole Bafon at that Price, but they would not let me have any more than what my payment came to.

At Night I went to Court to fee feveral Noblemen who ow'd me Money ; the King's High Steward, the Captain at the Gate, and the Receiver of the Presents who were of the Number, defir'd me to go to the Envoy of the *French* Company, and to tell him, that it was wonder'd at, at Court, that he would not pay the Fees of the Presents he had made to the King. That therein he was wrong inform'd of the Customs of *Persia*, fince all Ambaffadors, and generally all thofe who make Presents to the King, from what Place foever they come, pay thofe Fees which were an establish'd Duty, and the chief Perquisite of their Places, and of the other Officers who had a fhare therein. That it was in vain he struggl'd not to pay them, for he would certainly find he muft. Thofe Noblemen told me this in a much loftier Strain than I relate it ; others who had an Interest in the fame Duty, charg'd me likewise with the fame Message, fo that I thought my felf oblig'd to acquaint him therewith, that he might be the better able to take fafe Measures. I found him prepossefs'd in favour of his Conduct ; he answer'd me, ' That he had given thofe Lords to understand, ' when he was firft fpoken to concerning ' that

‘ that Duty, that he was come to make a
‘ Present to the King, but had not brought
‘ any Thing for the Officers, and that abso-
‘ lutely he would give them nothing, and
‘ pray’d me to carry them that Answer at
‘ my Conveniency. It was put in the En-
‘ voy’s Head to speak after this manner,
‘ and it was suggested to him, that the Na-
‘ zir would free him from this pretended
‘ Duty; that Lord made some Steps in-
deed in order thereunto. He read to the
King the Petition which the Envoy had pre-
sented to that Purpose. On the other hand,
the great Men who were concern’d therein,
preferr’d likewise their Petitions in opposi-
tion to his, this Difference made a Noise. The
first Minister did not declare his Opinion;
the Envoy alledg’d, that his Colleague who
had a greater Liberty in his Orders, was dead,
but as for himself, he had no Power to give
any Thing, beyond what was prescrib’d in
his Commission. The Nobles alledgd in
their behalf the Customs. and that this Fee
was a part of their Salaries. At last the
King’s Council order’d, that the Matter
should be examin’d into among the *English*,
the *Portuguese*, and the *Hollanders*, and that
if it appear’d that any Ambassador or En-
voy of those Nations had at any time been
exempted from paying that Duty, this En-
voy should likewise have the same Favour.
The Interpreters of those Nations were

thereupon sent for, and the Registers of the Receiver of the Presents were likewise brought, and search'd. At last they all agreed, that no *European* had ever been freed from that Duty, and that the *French* Envoy must do as the rest had done; they show'd him however some favour, and he came off for ten thousand eight hundred Livres.

This Duty is fifteen *per Cent.* by Constitution; but the Abuses that have crept into it, have made it amount to near five and twenty. The Lord High Steward has ten of it, which of Right he ought to share with the Yelliaouls, who are like the King's Gentlemen in Ordinary, and are four and twenty in Number; but he gives them little or nothing out of it. The other fifteen *per Cent.* are for the Intendants of the Galleries or Magazines where the Presents are laid up, as has been said: Thus the Duties on the Jewels which are presented to the King, are for the chief of the Treasury, and the chief of the *Goldsmiths*, and so of the rest.

The same Day the High Steward sold to the *Armenians*, in the King's Name, a Diamond of three and fifty Carats, which belong'd to the Princess his Mother. for a hundred thousand Livres to be paid in eighteen Months. This Minister had endeavour'd to exchange it with me, for some part of what I had brought, but as I did not care to meddle with it, and the King's Mother had ta-
ker

ken a Dislike to it, and was desirous to get rid of it at any Rate, the Corporation of *Armenian* Merchants were compell'd to buy it. They refus'd the Bargain as long as they could ; but they were so strongly press'd and importun'd to gratify the King's Mother, that they were at last forc'd to comply. If at first they had made a Present of seven or eight hundred Pistoles to the Nazir, he would have secur'd them from this Oppression. They offer'd me, eight Days after, that Diamond at a third part Loss.

On the 4th, the Envoy of the *French* Company had a Conference with the First Minister. He went at Ten a Clock to that Lord's House. The Nazir was there, and several other Ministers. They fell to discourse concerning the Letters he had presented, and the Memorial of his Diamonds ; and they ask'd him, What it was that he offer'd in exchange for the Exemptions from the Duties, and for the other Favours to which he pretended? Here he was at a loss what to answer, and he desir'd the Superior of the Capuchins might be sent for. This was granted, and the Capuchin being come, he answer'd in the Name of the Envoy, That he had no power at all to treat, and he was come on no other Account than to make a Present to the King, and to desire a Confirmation of the Privileges granted by the late King to the Company,

and confirm'd by the King Regent. The Ministers made answer : ' That the first Deputies of the Company, who came in the Year 1665, had given their Word, upon their receiving those Privileges, that at the Expiration of three Years, the Company would send fresh Deputies, not only to bring Presents, but also to conclude a Treaty of Commerce with *Persia* ; and that it was entirely upon that Promise that those Privileges had been granted them ; and that the King had confirm'd them at the beginning of his Reign.' The First Minister moreover said : ' The *English* have the Exemptions which you desire, for having put *Ormuz* into the Hands of the *Persians*. The *Portuguese* enjoy the same ; for having yielded up to *Persia*, those Lands which they held in the Gulph. The *Hollanders* have them likewise, in consideration of Six hundred Bales of Silk, which they every Year take of the King, at a 3d Part dearer than they are in the Market. Now what is it the *French* will give us for the same Exemptions they enjoy ? ' The Superiour of the Capuchins answered for the Envoy, ' That he had no Order to treat of any Conditions : That Monsieur *Guetton*, who was Plenipotentiary, would have treated thereof if he had come ; but he being dead, the Envoy here present had no other Orders, than

' to

‘ to make the King the Present which he had
‘ brought, and to desire a Continuation of
‘ the Privileges which had been granted
‘ to the Company.’ Hereupon the First
Minister, turning to the other Ministers, said
to them, with an affected Gravity, ‘ That
‘ he believ’d it was really true, since, in all
‘ Likelihood, the Company would not have
‘ made Choice of so young a Person as the
‘ Envoy was, for a Negotiation of Impor-
‘ tance.’ He afterwards turn’d to the Supe-
riour of the Capuchins, and ask’d him,
how he reconcil’d the Answer he had just
now made, with the Letter which the
Envoy had deliver’d to the King from the
Company ; which contains, that the Sieurs
Gueston, and *de Joncheres*, are equal in Qua-
lity, and in Power ; and that she sends
two Deputies, that in case the one should
die, the other might fulfil the Deputation.
The Father Capuchin found himself a little
perplex’d with this Contradiction, and en-
deavour’d to clear it; but the Divan was so
ill satisfy’d with his Reply, that it did
not vouchsafe to answer it. The First
Minister then made a long Enumeration,
‘ of the good Usage that had been dealt to
‘ all those that belong’d to the Company,
‘ and how their Traffick had been encou-
‘ rag’d, since its Establishment in the Year
‘ 1664. They having been suffer’d to trade
‘ without paying any Duties ; whereas

' the Company, instead of making good
 ' the Promises its first Deputies had made,
 ' and given in Writing in the Company's
 ' Name, sent now to desire a Continuation
 ' of those Favours, without offering any
 ' thing in exchange for the same.' The
 Envoy's Counsel answer'd in Promises and
 good Words. In fine, after a pretty long
 Discourse, the first Minister told them,
 ' That the King should be inform'd of what
 ' had pass'd in the Conference; and that
 ' his Majesty, according to his usual Gene-
 ' rosity, would not fail to give a favour-
 ' able Answer to the Envoy's Petitions, and
 ' that he might hope for the same. He
 ' charg'd him also to write to the Company,
 ' That the King was altogether well inclin'd
 ' to promote its Traffick, as were likewise
 ' all his Ministers, and that whatever was
 ' Reasonable, should be done in its Favour,
 The Negotiation being ended, Dinner was
 serv'd up, which indeed was very splendid,
 and a quarter of an Hour after, the Envoy
 was dismiss'd.

The next Day, the Agent of the *English*
 Company had a like Conference with the
 Divan, or Council, concerning its Affairs.
 He represent'd, in a long Discourse, ' The
 ' Injustice which was dealt for many Years
 ' past to the Company, in defrauding it of
 ' the one half it has a Right to, of the Cu-
 ' stoms of *Bandar-Abassi*, by a solemn Con-
 tract

tract made with the late Kings of *Persia*.
Next, the little Regard that was had to
the *English* for some time past, and the
Hardships they were made to undergo in
several Custom-Houses, where their Port-
manteaus were search'd, and their Goods
visited.' To which the First Minister
made answer, 'That that had been done
without Order, and that he would cause
Justice to be done thereupon, tho' it
was not altogether without Reason they
had that Usage, because the *English*
were suspected to have carry'd away every
Year large Sums of Ducates, contrary to
the Laws of the Kingdom, and had been
caught in the Fact.' He then answer'd to
the main Point, 'That as for what regard-
ed the Customs of *Bander-Abassi*, the
Face of things was very much chang'd
since the taking of *Ormuz*; and that if the
Persians had any way infring'd the Treaty,
it was upon the Pattern set them by the
English Company: That this was evident
from the same Treaty, by which that
Company was oblig'd to maintain a Squa-
dron of Ships in the Gulph of *Persia*, to
keep the Sea clear, and to secure the Com-
merce; notwithstanding which it was
many Years since any one *English* Ship
had been employ'd on that Account:
That this was the Cause, that the *Portu-
guese*, and the *Arabians* strangely infested
it

‘ it to the great Damage of *Persia* ; the first
 ‘ carrying away the Ships by Force, to
 ‘ other Ports than that of *Bandar-Abassi*,
 ‘ and loading them with a thousand Op-
 ‘ pressions.’ This Conference was long,
 and the Grand Vizier reproach’d the *English*
 severely, on the account of the passing under
 their Name, Merchandize that did not be-
 long to them. The Envoy reply’d, ‘ That
 ‘ this was done unknown to, and contrary
 ‘ to the Orders of the Company ; and that
 ‘ he would take effectual Care that no such
 ‘ thing should be practis’d for the future.’
 After this, he was splendidly entertain’d at
 Dinner.

The same Day, the Princess, Wife to the
 Great Pontif, caus’d to be shown to me a
 Pearl Necklace, a Jewel, and a pair of Pen-
 dants, which very well deserve to find a
 Place in this Journal. It was on the account
 of my Jewels that she did me this Favour.
 She had caus’d me to be ask’d for the finest
 I had left ; and I had a Pearl Necklace
 which I very much esteem’d, it was worth
 Ten thousand Crowns ; I sent it to her.
 The Princess having seen it, and all my other
 Jewels, she order’d me to be thank’d, and
 sent me a String of Pearls. I never in my
 Life saw such fine ones, nor so large ; It
 consisted of Thirty-eight Oriental Pearls,
 each weighing Twenty-four Carats, all well
 form’d, of the same Water, and same Big-
 ness :

ness : It is not an Ornament for the Neck, but for the Face, after the *Persian* Manner : It is fasten'd at the Temples to the Head-band, or Fillet, and comes down the Cheeks, and under the Chin. The two Pendants for the Ears, which she likewise sent me, were two Rubies Ballas, of an ill Form, but clear and of a good Colour, each of 'em weigh'd about two Drams and half. The Eunuch told me, That an Ambassador who was sent from *Persia* to *Turkey*, by King *Sefi*, the Father of this Princess, had bought them at *Constantinople*, for a hundred and twenty Thousand Crowns. The Jewel was of Rubies and Diamonds, with Bobs of Diamonds : No finer can be seen, either for the Clearness, Beauty, or Liveliness of the Stones.

The Jewels of this Princess were worth Forty thousand Tomans, which, of *French* Money amounts to eighteen hundred Thousand Livres. The Eunuch told me, That the Princess had so much Goodness for me, that she would have let me see them too, if they had not been fasten'd to her Cloaths, and most of them made up into Girdles ; but that it was not customary in *Persia* for the Ladies to let their Cloaths be seen. This is true, and it would be counted an infamous thing. They say moreover, That by seeing a Lady's Cloaths, one may guess thereby at her Shape and Make, and by that

that means, use Witchcraft upon her Person. The *Persian* Women are surprizingly weak in reference to Witchcraft, for they believe them as they do the greatest Truths, and dread 'em more than Hell it self.

C H A P. XXIII.

The Mosque of Metched repair'd, which was thrown down by an Earthquake. Calaats delivered to all the Ambassadors and Envoys. The King proceeds on his Journey. Translation of the King's Edicts. The Persians Ignorance as to the European Parts of the World.

ON the 9th, I went to the House of the Kings Goldsmiths, which is in the Royal Palace, to see them make some Gilt Plates in the Form of Tiles, which were to cover the Dome of the Mosque of *Iman-Reza*, at *Metched*, which an Earthquake had hung down, as I before related. A thousand Men, as was said, were employ'd in repairing this Mosque; and they work'd at it with so much Diligence and Application, that it was to be finish'd by the latter end of *December*. These Plates were of Brass, and square, Ten Inches in Breadth, and

and Sixteen in Length, and of the Thickness of two Crown-Pieces. Underneath were two Barrs three Inches broad, solder'd on Cross-wise, to sink into the Parget, and so serve as Cramp-Irons to fasten the Tiles. The upper part was gilt so thick, that one would have taken the Tile to have been of Massif-Gold : Each Tile took up the weight of three Ducates and a quarter of Gilding, and came to about ten Crowns Value. They were order'd to make Three thousand at first, as I was told by the Chief Goldsmith who was Overseer of the Work.

On the 13th, in the Morning, Calates were carry'd to all the Ambassadors and Envoys that were at *Ispahan*. These are (as I have often observ'd) those Cloaths which the King gives to do Honour to those they are sent to. The First Minister sent them word, to put 'em on, and to come and receive their Audience of Leave, at the House of Pleasure, where the Court was, since its Departure from *Ispahan*.

No Ambassador nor Envoy receives his Audience of Leave, but cloath'd with this Habit ; and when it is sent to him it is a certain Mark that he is going to be dismiss'd. These Calates are of different Sorts : Some of them are worth a thousand Tomans, which are fifteen thousand Crowns ; those are enrich'd with Pearls and Precious Stones. In a word, the Calates have no set Price,
and

and they are given more or less rich, according to the Quality of the Persons. Some of them consist of a whole Suit of Cloathing, even to the Shirt and Shoes. Some of them again are taken out of the King's own Wardrobe, and from amongst the Garments he has worn. The common ones are compos'd of four Pieces only, *viz.* a Vest, an upper Vest, a Scarf, and a Turbant, which is the Covering us'd in that Country for the Head. Those which are given to Persons of Consideration, as Ambassadors, are usually worth fourscore Pistoles. The others that are given to Persons of a meaner Condition, are not worth above half as much. There are some given, that are not worth ten Pistoles, and consist only of a Vest, and Survest. In fine, the Quality of the Person is what regulates the Value and Quality of the Calates that are given to him. I saw one given in the Year 1666, to the Ambassador of *India*, which was valu'd at an Hundred thousand Crowns: It consisted of a Garment of Gold Brocard, with several upper Vests, lin'd with Marten Furrs, and enrich'd with a Clasp of Precious Stones; of Fittien thousand Crowns in Money; of Forty very fine Horses, which were valu'd at an Hundred Pistoles each; of Trappings garnish'd with Precious Stones; of a Sword and Dagger which were cover'd over with the same; of two great Boxes, fill'd
with

with rich Brocards of Gold and Silver ; and of several Chests of dry'd Fruits, Liquors, and Effences: All this was call'd a Calate.

It is not to be believ'd, the vast Expence the King of *Persia* is at in these Presents; the Number of Garments he thus bestows is infinite; his Wardrobes are therefore always kept full of them, and the Nazir causes them to be deliver'd according to the King's Pleasure. They are kept in separate Magazines according to their respective Sorts. The Nazir only marks upon a Ticket, what Magazine the Garment which the King gives is to be taken out of. The Officers of these Magazines and Wardrobes have a settl'd Duty paid them out of these Cloaths, which amounts to above half the value thereof. This Duty or Fee is the chief Perquisite of these Officers, and when the King commands any Habit to be given without taking Fees, (which very rarely happens) he makes them good to the Officers, so that they never loose them. It is the same in all the Presents the King makes; if it be in ready Money, the Super-intendant of the Treasury takes five *per Cent.* which is shar'd among several Officers of the King's Household. The Nazir has for his particular Share two *per Cent.* if it be of Horses, the Master of the Horse has the like Fee out of it; if it be of Jewels, the chief of the *Goldsmiths* has the same, and so of the others; to conclude,
the

the King of *Persia* never dismisses any Stranger, till he has sent to him a Calate, and likewise one to each of the principal Persons of his Retinue, and to his Interpreter.

The Calate of the *Muscovite* Ambassador consisted of a fine Horse, with Trappings of Silver gilt, the Saddle and Housing being embroider'd; of three compleat Suits of Brocard, the Ground of one of which was Gold, that of another was Silver, and that of the other was Silk; and of nine hundred Pistoles, half in ready Money, and half in Stuffs. That of the Envoy of the *French East India* Company was, a Horse without Furniture, four Suits of Brocard, two of which were Compleat, the Ground of the one being Gold, and that of the other of Silver; the other two were not Compleat, and had Silk Grounds; and of five hundred Pistoles, half in ready Money, and half in Stuffs. The Agent of the *English* Company had for a Calate, a Horse without Furniture, as the Envoy of the *French* Company had; three Suits like those of the *Muscovite* Ambassador, and a Sword garnish'd with *Turkey* Stones, to the Value of three hundred and fifty Pistoles. These Gentlemen repair'd to Court in the Afternoon. The *Mahometan* Ambassador had been dismiss'd in the Morning in the Great Hall, which is at the End of the Garden of that fine Palace. The Halls thereof were very neat, the Cascades play'd, the

the Waters made a charming Murmur, and the whole Court was there in admirable Order, and pompous Splendor. The Introducer of Ambassadors conducted the *Muscovite* Ambassador to Audience. The Envoy of the *French* Company follow'd, being conducted by an Assistant of the Ceremonies. The Agent of the *English* Company came after, conducted by such an other Officer; they all three joyn'd at the entrance of the great Hall where the King was, and the whole Court. The Ambassador from *Muscovy* enter'd with his Second, and his Interpreter cloath'd in Calates. They advanc'd to within four Paces of the King, and there the Ambassador and his Second, falling on their Knees, bow'd their Head three times to the Ground, and then rose up. At the same time, the Nazir took from the Hands of the first Minister, the King's Answer to the Letter of the Great Duke, and put it into those of the Ambassador. He would out of Honour have fix'd it on his Forehead like a Headband, if it would have stuck, but it fell off; he took it up immediately and carry'd it on the Palm of his Hands. This Letter was shut up in a Bag of Gold Brocade, very thick, a Foot and half long, and as broad as one's Hand, the Seal being affix'd to the Strings of Gold with which the Bag was ty'd. While the Ambassador withdrew, the Envoy of the *French* Company

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advanc'd

advanc'd to the same Place, and bow'd after the same Manner; his Second, and his Chirurgion, who accompany'd him, did the like. Then the *English* Agent advanc'd as the others had done; but he made his Bow after the *European* Manner, as did his Second also, and then he withdrew. As he was bowing his Body the third time, the Nazir put into the folds of his Turbant, the King's Answer to the King of *England's* Letter; it was folded up, put into a Bag, and seal'd like that which had been given to the *Muscovite* Ambassador. The Envoy of the *French* Company, was the only Person amongst them that was dismiss'd without an Answer; he was put off for some Days, The King look'd at him, and at all the the other *Europeans* with a great Inclination to Laugh, seeing them wear the *Persian* Habit so awkwardly; in reality, one could not contain one self, that Dress so ill became them, and even disfigur'd them. After this, the King gave several Strangers, and several Persons of the Country who were come to Court, leave to depart, and receiv'd divers Presents.

On the 14th, the King set out towards the Evening, and went and lay at a Country-House two Leagues from this, at the other end of the Town. He went on the outside of the Town, the Astrologers having found by the Motion of the Stars, that he must not
go

go through the City. The *Armenians* waited for him in a Body on the Road, having their chief at the Head of them, in order to wish his Majesty a good Journey ; and because there is no appearing before the King with empty Hands, they made him a Present of four hundred Pistols.

On the 17th, the Nazir introduc'd me to the King ; he was in a Night-Gown in a little Garden, leaning against a Tree hard by a Bason of Water. The King bid me procure him the Jewels mention'd in a Memorial which the Nazir would give me, and that I should be Satisfy'd.

The 18th, the King proceeded on his Journey, and went to a great Borough two Leagues off, call'd *Denlet abad*, that is to say, the Habitation of Grandure.

The King's Stages are never longer than that, and he finds at every one of them a House of his own, throughout all the Provinces of his Empire.

On the 27th, the Interpreter of the *French* Company, who had follow'd the Court, return'd with Dispatches for the Envoy, which consisted of three Ordinances of the King in favour of some of the said Envoys Demands in a Letter to his Majesty, and of a Letter from the Nazir to this Company ; it was not one half of what he expected, they told him that he might assure the Company, that whenever she sent a Deputy to treat of

the Commerce, she should be gratify'd in all her Pretentions. He had begg'd some small Favours for the Capuchins and Jesuits, but they were refus'd him with the rest. Here follow a Translation of the Ordinances and Orders.

G O D.

‘ Edict of the King of the World, directed
 ‘ to the Governor, the Intendant, and other
 ‘ Royal Officers of the Town of *Chiras*, the
 ‘ Theatre of Sciences who ought all to hold
 ‘ themselves sure of our good Will, and of
 ‘ our Royal Favours. The Great Kings
 ‘ who have been taken up to Heav’n, after
 ‘ having been during their Lives the true
 ‘ Lieutenants of the true Prophet, who is
 ‘ in Paradise, to wit, the King our Father
 ‘ (whose Excuses at Judgment may God
 ‘ vouchsafe to hear) and the King our
 ‘ Grand-Father (to whose Royal Ashes may
 ‘ it please God to show Mercy) having per-
 ‘ mitted by their Letters Patent, the Compa-
 ‘ nies of the *Dutch* and the *English* to trans-
 ‘ port every Year to the holy Port *Abas*, and
 ‘ to *Ispahan*, the Seat of the Monarchy, all
 ‘ the Wine necessary for their Use, the *French*
 ‘ Company has by most humble Petitions to
 ‘ us presented, intreated us to grant it the
 ‘ Favour to transport likewise from *Chiras*,
 ‘ to the sacred Port *Abas*, as much Wine as
 ‘ shall be requisite for their Drinking. Our
 ‘ most

‘ most noble Majesty has therefore granted to
 ‘ them these honourable Letters Patent direct-
 ‘ ed to you, to the end you permit the Com-
 ‘ missaries of this Company to make Wine
 ‘ in their Houses, and that at all times, even
 ‘ when we forbid you to make any Wine
 ‘ within your Government, the aforesaid
 ‘ Prohibitions relating only to the Faith-
 ‘ ful. Take therefore special care, that no
 ‘ Body hinders the Commissaries of the said
 ‘ Company from making of Wine and trans-
 ‘ porting it where they please. You must
 ‘ also know, that this Edict is made on ri-
 ‘ gorous Penalties, and that there is no in-
 ‘ fringing it, without being expos’d to Ca-
 ‘ pital Punishment. Done in the Month of
 ‘ *Rejeb*, in the Year of the *Hegira*, 1084.

G O D.

‘ Edict of the King of the World, directed
 ‘ to the Governors and intendants of the
 ‘ celebrated Cities of *Lar*, and of *Jarron* ;
 ‘ they are to know that at this present, the
 ‘ Envoy of the *French East-India* Company,
 ‘ has given to understand by Petitions dis-
 ‘ pers’d in our Royal Palace, which is a
 ‘ Copy of the Heaven of God, that as he
 ‘ came to *Ispahan*, the Seat of the Monarchy ;
 ‘ certain Thieves between *Lar* and *Jarron*,
 ‘ have taken some Things from his Dome-
 ‘ sticks to the value of sixty Tomans, Mo-
 ‘ ney of *Tauris* ; We therefore absolutely

‘ command the Régents, and all the other
 ‘ Royal Officers of those Towns, to cause an
 ‘ exact and diligent enquiry to be made of
 ‘ this Robbery, and to recover it by whatever
 ‘ manner it may be, and to take the Rob-
 ‘ bers, and punish them as the Crime shall
 ‘ require, after having made them confess
 ‘ it by earnest Solicitations or by Torments.
 ‘ In case the Things stoln, nor the Robbers
 ‘ cannot be found, the said Regents and
 ‘ other Royal Officers, are to be Responsible
 ‘ for the Robbery, and to pay the Value
 ‘ thereof, &c.

G O D.

‘ Edict of the King of the World, direct-
 ‘ ed to the Governor. Intendant, and to the
 ‘ Farmer-general of the Holy Port *Abas*. They
 ‘ are to know, that the Envoy of the *French*
 ‘ *East-India* Company has had his Audience
 ‘ of Leave. Now he hath desir’d by a most
 ‘ humble Petition, that the said Company
 ‘ may be permitted to transport every Year
 ‘ some Horses from *Persia* to *France*. We
 ‘ have therefore granted his Request, and
 ‘ have ordain’d, and do ordain by these
 ‘ present Letters, that the *French* be suffer’d
 ‘ once a Year to transport five Horses from
 ‘ the Holy Port *Abas*, to their Country,
 ‘ without giving them any Trouble or Op-
 ‘ position, or offering the least hindrance,
 ‘ as also without asking, or showing Pre-
 ‘ tentions

‘ tentions to any Duties for the foreign Ex-
‘ portation of those Horses. You are to
‘ know, &c.

The *Persians* have so little knowledge yet of the World, that they frequently ask, if there be any Horses in *Europe*, seeing all the *Europeans* carry from *Persia* as many as they can. They imagin that we transport them into our own Country, whereas it is to make use of them in the *Indies*, where there are only little Horses, and those ugly ones, as well as few in Number.

C H A P. XXIV.

The King's Letter and the Nazirs to the French Company. The English dispatch'd afterwards, Punishment of the King's Officers upon the Road. The Author receives his Money for his Jewels sold to the King, his Acquittance, the Manner of it.

The King's Letter, and that of the Nazir to the Company, were these following.

‘ **T**O the most honourable Lord, Colbert,
‘ Berrier, le Pelletier, Jabac, Chanlatte,
‘ Cadeau, most Illustrious Chiefs of the Chri-
‘ stian Merchants, Directors of the great
‘ Commerce of the *French*: Be assur'd of

our Royal Favour and good Will, and
 know that the Requests and Presents which
 you have sent to our Court, (which is the
 Refuge of the Universe) by the Sieurs
Guejon and *de Foncheres* your Deputies,
 are happily arriv'd there. This last who
 is the Flower of his Equals, has had the
 Felicity and the Glory to appear before the
 Eyes of our most high Majesty, and to have
 had a look from it. We, in Conformity
 to the Letters Patent, which the late King
 of high and invincible Memory has gran-
 ted you, and which our Majesty has con-
 firm'd and renew'd with Honour to you
 some time ago, have absolutely comman-
 ded, that Honour be done to, and Consi-
 deration had for the celebrated Merchants
 of the Kingdom of *France*, who go and
 come into our Kingdoms, the best go-
 vern'd of all the Earth, Knowing there-
 fore the Grate and intire Favour which
 is done to you by our most high Majesty
 which wants nothing, apply your self
 wholly to your Traffick and Merchandize,
 with all Hope and Expectation of a happy
 Success: Cause your Agents and Factors
 to go and come throughout the whole
 Extent of our vast Empire with a full
 Confidence in our Royal Benevolence, and
 an Assurance of obtaining all sorts of Fa-
 vours. Depute also to us one of your
 Merchants, and send him to our High
 Court,

‘ Court (which is the Refuge of Human
‘ Kind) upon all Affairs you shall have to
‘ treat there, cause Petitions to be present-
‘ ed to us, and hold your selves sure, that
‘ they shall be honourably answered, and
‘ that as far as Reason will permit, you shall
‘ obtain all things from the extreme Boun-
‘ ty and Clemency of Our Majesty, the
‘ lively Image of God. As soon as the
‘ Mark of our most High Majesty shall be
‘ put to this Letter, and that our Paraph,
‘ and our Seal, most Noble, most Holy, and
‘ most High, shall have embellish’d it, and
‘ fill’d it with Lustre and Force, it is re-
‘ quisite that all Belief be given thereto,
‘ that an absolute Obedience be paid to the
‘ same. Done in the Month of *Rejeb the*
‘ *Great*, in the Year of the *Hegira*, One
‘ thousand Eighty four.

G O D.

‘ Emminent and Puissant Lords, *Colbert*,
‘ *Le Pelletier*, *Berrier*, *Chapellier*, *Jabac*,
‘ *Chanlate*, *Cadeau*, Persons full of Honour
‘ and Magnificence, Illustrious among the
‘ People who follow the Law of JESUS,
‘ Directors in Chief of a powerful Company
‘ of Christian Merchants. After we have
‘ paid you our Civilities, and have assur’d
‘ you, that this Letter is a certain Token of
‘ the Good-will and Friendship we have
‘ for you ; We make known to you, the
‘ Arrival

‘ Arrival of your Deputies, M. *Gueston*, and
 ‘ M. *des Joncheres*, to whom you had given
 ‘ a Commission to come to this Court. The
 ‘ first of the two being Dead, M. *des Jon-*
 ‘ *cheres*, a Person of Dignity, Capacity and
 ‘ Honour, took upon himself the whole
 ‘ Commission. He came hither in a good,
 ‘ happy, and favourable Time, with the
 ‘ Presents, and Requests with which you
 ‘ had charg’d him for this Court, which is
 ‘ the Refuge of the whole World: He, his
 ‘ Presents, and Petitions, have, by Favour,
 ‘ had a Look from our most High, most
 ‘ Noble, most Sublime, and most Holy
 ‘ Monarch, to whom nothing is wanting,
 ‘ being King of the Universe, and the
 ‘ Image of God; may my Soul, and that
 ‘ of all his other Slaves, be sacrific’d to the
 ‘ Dust of his blessed Feet. His Majesty has
 ‘ made known. how much all that was ac-
 ‘ ceptable to him, by the Privileges which
 ‘ he has caus’d to be dispatch’d for your
 ‘ said Deputy, full of his usual Magnifi-
 ‘ cence.

‘ Your first Deputies, who came here in
 ‘ the Reign of the late King, presented
 ‘ Petitions to him. and he caus’d Dispatches
 ‘ to be made for them, with an incompa-
 ‘ rable Generosity, of very honourable
 ‘ Letters Patent, the Tenor whereof was;
 ‘ That the Farmers of the Customs, and the
 ‘ Receivers of the Duties and Tolls of *Persia*,
 ‘ should

‘ should acknowledge your Factors and
‘ Agents, to be free from all Duties, of
‘ what Nature soever, during the time and
‘ space of three Years, taking special Care
‘ not to show the least Pretension of Duty
‘ on your Merchandize ; only that an Ac-
‘ count should be kept of all the Effects they
‘ should so bring during those three Years,
‘ but without pretending to any Custom for
‘ the same ; and that because your said De-
‘ puties promis’d, that at the Expiration of
‘ that Term, you would send to this Court,
‘ the Refuge of the Universe, fine and rich
‘ Presents, as an Equivalent, and by way
‘ of Compensation for the Duties of the
‘ Customs and Tolls which they ought
‘ otherwise to have paid, and that at the
‘ end of three Years, the Behaviour on
‘ both sides, should be pursuant to what
‘ should be agreed to in a Treaty of Com-
‘ merce. At the same time that this Regu-
‘ lation was finish’d and prepar’d, it was
‘ annull’d at the Request of your said De-
‘ puties, and out of an Excess of Bounty
‘ and Favour, other Letters-Patent, were
‘ very honourably dispatch’d for them,
‘ which imported an Injunction to all the
‘ Officers of the Customs, Duties, and Tolls
‘ of *Persia*, to acknowledge your Agents,
‘ and Factors to be exempt from all sorts of
‘ Taxes and Duties, and out of the Bounds
‘ of their Power and Authority, without
‘ any

‘ any Limitation of Time ; and to take
‘ special Care not to exact from them any
‘ thing whatever, provided they made such
‘ Use thereof as was conformable to the
‘ Terms of the Obligation in Writing,
‘ which they deliver’d to the Officers of our
‘ Court, the Image of Paradise. These
‘ Letters-Patent, have, by Honour and Fa-
‘ vour, been confirm’d and renew’d in the
‘ same Form and Tenor, by our most High,
‘ most Great, and most Noble Monarch,
‘ to whose Happiness nothing is wanting.
‘ It is near ten Years this Day, since that
‘ was done, and yet no-body is come on
‘ your Part. What perplexeth most, is,
‘ That this Obligation of your first Depu-
‘ ties is not to be found, for that *Ma. sud-*
‘ *bee*, *Nizir*, (to whom God has given Ab-
‘ solution) into whose Hands it had been
‘ deliver’d, has quitted this Life : So that
‘ there is no telling for certain, what were
‘ the Clauses, Articles and Conditions there-
‘ of. We have had a Conference on all
‘ this with the Emminent *M. des Joncheres*.
‘ All the Answer he made us was, That he
‘ was neither your Agent, nor your Depu-
‘ ty, to know your Affairs. Apon this
‘ Answer, we propos’d to our most Great
‘ King, that you might have three Years
‘ time more, to send to this most High
‘ Court a Deputy, to make another Obliga-
‘ tion, and another Engagement. My Pro-
‘ position

‘ position was luckily approv’d of, and
‘ agreed to : Fail not therefore, Emminent
‘ Lords, to nominate, and send to this
‘ most High Court, before the Expiration
‘ of that Term, one of your Commissioners,
‘ to give another Obligation, and present
‘ Petitions on all the Requests you shall have
‘ to make. The *English* Nation has done
‘ several important Services to *Persia*; in
‘ Compensation for which, a great many
‘ Privileges and Advantages have been
‘ granted to them. The same is expected
‘ from your Nation, and that we shall re-
‘ ceive good Offices from it, in Payment
‘ of the Royal Favours, which you have
‘ receiv’d from his Majesty, and of the Ex-
‘ emption from all kinds of Duties which
‘ he has granted to your Commerce. As
‘ to the Eight Requests contain’d in the
‘ Letter which your Envoy has deliver’d to
‘ us, some of them have been granted,
‘ *viz.* A Confirmation of the Privileges
‘ which had before been granted to you,
‘ and fresh Letters-Patent have been dis-
‘ patch’d for that Purpose: And as to the
‘ others, the Grant and Concession of them
‘ has been delay’d till the Arrival of a new
‘ Envoy. Be most assur’d and fully per-
‘ swaded, that the Person you shall de-
‘ pute to the Foot-stool of the unshake-
‘ able Throne of our Monarch, shall obtain
‘ all his Demands, and shall return with
‘ a Saf-

‘ a Success altogether answerable to your
 ‘ Desires. Do not delay sending him, and
 ‘ do not behave your selves so, that I may
 ‘ be in Confusion for the Accommodation
 ‘ I have procur’d, and of the Assurances I
 ‘ have given of your Gratitude and Acknow-
 ‘ ledgment. In all kinds of Affairs you
 ‘ shall have here, make your Intentions
 ‘ known to us, and be assur’d, that, with
 ‘ the Help of God, and by the Favour of
 ‘ our Great King, whose most exalted, and
 ‘ most solid Fortune, is not subject to
 ‘ Change, they shall have a Success, which
 ‘ shall fulfil, and even surpass your Ex-
 ‘ pectation. In the Month of *Regeb the*
 ‘ *Great*, and Year of the *Hegira*, One thou-
 ‘ sand Eighty-four.

The *English* had their Dispatches a few
 Days after, which consisted of a Confir-
 mation of their Privileges; but they had
 no Satisfaction concerning the Arrears of the
 one half of the Customs of *Bandar-abassi*,
 which they desir’d, nor touching the Assu-
 rances of being paid the same punctually
 for the future. The First Minister answer’d
 as before, That *Persia* was not oblig’d to
 observe the Treaty of *Ormuz*, on that Head,
 because the *English* had broken it first, in
 not maintaining Ships in the Gulph, to keep
 it free from the *Portuguese*, and other Ene-
 mies, and in not furnishing half the Ex-
 pence

pence for the Support of the Castle of *Ormuz*, and the other Forts of *Bandar-Abassi*, as they were oblig'd by that Contract: Moreover, that the Customs were no longer the King's: That his Majesty had let them out to farm, and meddled no more with 'em; However, that he had commanded the Farmer-General of the Customs, to give every Year Fifteen thousand Crowns to the *English* Agent, and that he should be content therewith. Indeed he was forc'd to be contented, for he could not obtain any thing more. The First Minister appointed also an Officer, to accompany the Envoy from *Ispahan* to *Chiras*, and to make an exact Enquiry all the way, into the Insolences done to the *English* by the Officers of the Customs and Tolls, and to punish them very severely for the same. These Wretches had, for some Years past, us'd them with so much Rigour and Haughtiness, that they visited their Merchandizes on the Road, nay, even their Cloak-Bags and Portmantaus, under Pretence of searching for Gold and Silver. The King's Officers went as far as *Chiras*, fined all the Officers upon the Road, and did not let one escape without being Bastinado'd on the Soles of his Feet, which is the usual Punishment in that Country.

On the 5th of *November*, I receiv'd from the *Hollanders* the Seventy thousand Livres which the King had order'd me to take of them. After the Money was counted to me, they desir'd me to go along with their Interpreter to the House of the *Chie-elislam*, which is the chief Civil Tribunal in *Ispahan*, there to give a lawful Acquittance ; for in that Country Writings under Sign Manual are of no Validity in Justice, all must be done Juridically. The Great Judge asked me, if my Name was *Chardin*? If I, was the Person that had sold to the King the Jewels specify'd on the Back of the Order? And whether I had receiv'd to my Satisfaction the Sum therein contain'd? I answered, Yes, to all these Questions; and as by good Fortune, the Great Judge knew me before, he was contented with my Answer : Otherwise I must have produc'd Witnesses, that I was the right Person. After my Answers, he order'd one of his Secretaries to draw an Acquittance, to which he put his Seal and Flourish ; after which the Notary, two Witnesses, and my self last of all, put each our Seal thereto. Here is what it contain'd.

G O D.

‘ Before us, the *Sieur Chardin*, *European*
 ‘ Merchant of the Kingdom of *France*, the
 ‘ Flower of *European* Merchants, has con-
 ‘ fess'd

confess'd and acknowledg'd what follows. To wit, that he was Creditor to the King most Noble, for the Sum of fifteen hundred Tomans, money of *Tauris* of good Allay, of the Coin of the Invincible *Soliman* (We, with a full Certainty, and intire Knowledge, do pronounce that (a) the half of that Sum makes seven hundred and fifty Tomans, Money of *Tauris* aforesaid) which Sum of fifteen hundred Tomans was lawfully due to him for the payment of some Jewels of Goldsmith's Work and precious Stones, visibly fine, entire, and in good Condition, which he sold to the noble Officers of the King most Holy. A Catalogue, the Price, the Number of those Goldsmith's Works and precious Stones, are distinctly and without Mistake endors'd on the Order of the Monarch, to whom all the Universe owe's Homage and Obedience, and whose Face has the Splendor and Brightness of the Rays of the Sun. This Order bears, that the said *Sieur Chardin*, shall receive the said Sum of the Commissioners of the *Dutch East-India* Company, on account of what they owe for Silk to them sold and deliver'd in the Year of the (b) Hog, as is more amply express'd and contain'd in the said Holy Order of the King most Noble. The said *Sieur Chardin* also confesses and acknowledges, to have re-

' ceiv'd down upon the Nail to his Satisfa-
 ' ction, the said Sum of fifteen hundred To-
 ' mans compleat from the Sieurs *Bent* Chief,
 ' and *Casembroot* Second of the Counter of
 ' the *Dutch* Company in this City, the Flow-
 ' er of all those of their Quality, of which
 ' the said Creditor gives by these Presents,
 ' a judicial Receipt and Discharge to the
 ' said Debtors, so that the said Creditor has
 ' not, nor shall not have for the future any
 ' Right or Pretention on the said Debtors,
 ' for and by vertue of the said Sum of fif-
 ' teen hundred Tomans, nor for any part
 ' thereof. Wherefore if the Creditor, or
 ' any other in his Name shall sue at Law, or
 ' produce any Instruments contrary to, or
 ' different from what is here contain'd, his
 ' Action is hereby declar'd false and null to
 ' all Intents and Purposes. This Acquit-
 ' tance has been drawn with the Knowledge,
 ' and by the Consent of the said Debtors
 ' for their Satisfaction, and to serve them
 ' as a Certificate. Done the eighteenth of
 ' the Month of *Rejeb the Great*, in the Year
 ' of the *Hegira* one Thousand eighty four.

At the Top, on the left of the Page was
 the Seal and Paraph of the Great Judge,
 with these Words; *It is true, that the Par-*
ties nam'd in this Acquittance have confess'd
before me, all that makes the Tenor thereof.

Under

Under this Attestation, was that of the first Assistant of the Great Judge in these Words: *I, Mahammed Taber do certifie, that the Parties have acknowledg'd before me, the Sums herein contain'd in the Form they are couch'd in.*

At the Bottom of the Acquittance two other Witnesses, to wit, the Comptroller and the Register of the Great Judge had put these Words.

Testimony of David, Son of Mahammed Said, Witnesses of the Truth of what is contain'd in this Acquittance.

Mahammed Mehdy, who drew up this Acquittance, testifies, that its Tenor is the sincere Truth.

The *Chicane* of the *Persians*, is as perplex'd and intricate as ours, and the Terms it makes use of, are as difficult to reduce into a plain unequivocal Sense; nay, it is more, because their Law being writ in *Arabick*, their Procedures are full of *Arabick* Expressions, all particular to the Subject, and very hard to Explain. The Attestations or Testimonies are all compos'd in Terms, and in Characters as particular as Cyphers. There is this moreover, that the Letter of their Processes is quite different from the other; so that to learn it, costs the *Persians* as much Pains and Time, as to learn to read any Foreign Character.

(a) It is the Custom throughout the East, in pecuniary Acts, (simple Notes as well as others) to put after the Sum; that half of it is so much, and it is frequently added, that the quarter part is so much. The *Persians* say, this is done to prevent Frauds, it being easie to change one Word, or one Figure, but not many different ones.

(b) One of the 12 Years of the artificial Period, which the *Tartars* make use of, I have amply treated thereof elsewhere.

On the 9th of *December* it began to Rain in this City, the Rain continu'd four Days successively. It seldom Rains at *Ispahan*, even in Winter; but when it does, it Rains so hard, and so continually, that the Earth is penetrated therewith to above three Foot deep, and that is what moistens it so well.

On the 23d, fell another Rain, accompany'd with such furious Storms, that I never saw the like. It lasted four and twenty Hours, and fill'd with Water not only the Streets, but also the Houses and Gardens. It damag'd a great many Houses, and flung down several Walls. It so swell'd the River, that it overflow'd and beat down part of the Houses on the Key; it broke into that fine Alley, which is the Place for taking the Air at *Ispahan*, between the Bridge and the Borough of *Julfa*, and rose
to

to the height of four Foot. The Gardens thereabouts were laid under Water, and the Houses of Pleasure were overthrown. As all the Walls of *Ispahan* are made of Bricks of Earth, work'd up with Straw cut small, and dry'd in the Sun, it is but laying Water to the Bottom of the Wall to make it tumble down; if it lies there only four and twenty Hours, the whole or part is sure to fall, unless it be very thick. The Damage caus'd by this Storm, amounted to above two Million; the King's loss alone came to a hundred thousand Crowns. Two Days after the Water was all gone off, and in two Days more there was no sign thereof. The Ground about *Ispahan* drinks the Water like a Sponge; four drops soaks it, and a quarter of an Hour's Sun or Frost, dries it up intirely.

The End of the First Volume.



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