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Guyon

A NEW
HISTORY
OF THE
EAST-INDIES,
ANCIENT and MODERN.
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Containing the CHOROGRAPHY, NATURAL HISTORY, RELIGION, GOVERNMENT, MANNERS and CUSTOMS, REVOLUTIONS, &c. of those COUNTRIES.

VOL. II.

Containing an ESSAY towards a HISTORY of the COMMERCE of the several NATIONS of EUROPE to the EAST-INDIES.

SHEWING

The RISE, PROGRESS, and PRESENT STATE of that TRAFFIC; as carried on by the ENGLISH, DUTCH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, SWEDES, and DANES, from the first Discovery of a new Route to the INDIES, round the CAPE of GOOD-HOPE, to the present Time.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

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and bury his sword in it's body, altho' he well foresaw that he must be crushed to pieces by it's fall. Every body knows they do not lie down to sleep (*).

Their ordinary food is grass or corn, but they are very fond of sweets, such as barley sugar (*m*), and this they give them to tame them. They make those whom they design for war, drink the wine of the country (*n*), that is to say, beer. But others who are weaker, and only used for labour (*o*), drink nothing but water, which they love best when it is muddy. They are subject to different distempers of which the Indians know the remedies, and this makes that animal live two or three hundred years (*p*). Apollonius Tyaneus, or Damis (*q*), related that they had seen in the city of Taxila, the elephant of the famous Porus with two circles of gold round his tusks, in which it was written in Greek characters, that Alexander in esteem of him had consecrated him to the sun. At that time he must have been above four hundred years old. But their too great love for the marvellous renders this suspected.

The rhinoceros, called by the modern Indians *Abadu* (*r*), comes very near this animal in bulk and figure. This creature is found in the island of Java, and is common enough in the

(*) They say this happens because he has no joints in his legs. See upon that the treatise of vulgar errors, p. 241, et seq.

(*m*) Plin. l. viii. c. 7.

(*n*) Ælian. l. xiii. c. 8.

(*o*) Plin. l. viii. c. 1.

(*p*) Plin. c. 10. Ælian. l. iv. c. 31. Strab. l. xv. p. 705.

(*q*) Apud Philost. l. ii. c. 21.

(*r*) Mandelso's voyage to the Indies, l. ii. p. 376.

kingdoms of Bengal and Patana. The ancients have frequently mentioned it, but without giving an exact description of it. Holy scripture uses it as an example of the strength of God himself (s). *Whose strength is like that of the rhinoceros.* Pliny (t) contents himself with saying, that he has a horn upon his nose, as his name bears ; that he sharpens it upon a stone before he engages with the elephant, for whom he has a natural antipathy ; that he is very near of the same bigness ; but that he has shorter legs, and that his skin is of the colour of the box-tree. Ælian, who has entered into so minute a detail on other animals very common, has not thought it necessary to describe the rhinoceros, because all the world had seen it at Rome in the shews which the emperors exhibited for the amusement of the people. Strabo says (u) that he had seen this creature at Alexandria, and is as superficial in his description as Pliny, though he cites Artemidorus. Dio Cassius (x) only tells us, that they had never appeared at Rome before the triumph of Augustus.

We must then have recourse to the moderns for a knowledge of this extraordinary animal. Bontius (y) and father Le Compte (z) who had examined it several times, speak of it pretty much in the same manner. Here follow the

(s) Numb. c. xxiii. v. 22.

(t) Hist. nat. l. viii. c 20.

(u) L. xvi. p. 774.

(x) Hist. l. li. p. 460.

(y) Medicam. Indor. l. xvi.

(z) Memoirs of China.

words of the missionary. The rhinoceros is one of the most extraordinary animals in the world. He is somewhat, it appears to me, like the wild-boar, if it was not that he is much larger, that his feet are thicker and his body more unwieldy. His skin is all over covered with large and thick scales of a blackish colour, and an uncommon hardness. They are divided into small squares or buttons, raised about a line above the skin, and nearly like those of the crocodile. His legs appear to be set in boots, and his head wrapt up behind in a smooth capuchin: which has given occasion to the Portuguese to call him the *Indian Monk*. His head is large, his mouth little, and his snout drawn to a great length, and armed with a long thick horn, which makes him terrible to the tigers, the buffaloes, and the elephants. But that which appears most wonderful in this animal is his tongue, which nature has covered with so rough a membrane that it is not at all different from a file, and flays every thing which he licks. As we have animals here who make a grateful repast on thistles, whose small points agreeably stimulate the fibres or the nerves in their tongue, so the rhinoceros eats with pleasure the branches of trees bristled all over with the largest thorns. I have frequently given him of these whose points were very rough and long, and it was wonderful to see with what greediness and dexterity he immediately lick'd them up, and chewed them in his mouth without the least inconvenience. It is true it was sometimes

times a little bloody ; but that even rendered the taste more agreeable, and these little wounds to appearance made no other impression on his tongue than salt and pepper make on ours. The author might have added, that this animal has two kinds of wings of a skin extremely ugly, which cover his belly like a housing, and in shape resemble the wings of a bat.

Though the rest of his body is in a manner wrapt up in armour, as may be seen in Ruyfch (*a*), and those who attack him are exposed to great danger, yet the Indians hunt him as they do other animals, because he is of great use to them after his death. The Moors eat his flesh, however hard it may be. His horn is not less curious than useful. When it is cut through the middle (*b*), on each fide is seen the figure of a man whose out-lines are marked by little white strokes, with those of different birds and other things, as in the Egyptian flints. The greatest part of the Indian kings drink out of cups made of this horn, because it sweats at the approach of any poison whatsoever. The people of Java likewise (*c*) set a great value on this animal, because there is no part of it but is found in some degree useful in medicine. They make use of it's flesh, it's horn, blood, teeth, skin, and even it's excrements. They are persuaded there cannot be a better antidote against all kinds of poison ; and they attribute to it the same qualities which the

(*a*) Ruyfch. Theat. animal. t. 2. p. 66. tab. xxxviii.

(*b*) Herbelot. Bibliot. Orient. p. 959.

(*c*) Mandel. p. 377.

ancients did to the unicorn. Frequently they make bucklers of it's skin with it's scales.

The camel and the dromedary perform to the Indians (d), and the greatest part of the eastern nations, the same services which we receive from beasts of burden, with this difference, that they will carry a thousand weight and above, and go fifty leagues in a day without being fatigued; but they are not so fit to draw carriages. As it would be very difficult to load them in their natural situation on account of the height of their legs, they are accustomed betimes to lower themselves to render it the easier. As soon as they are brought forth, they bend their four feet under their belly, and put a covering on their back, whose corners are loaded with stones, that they may not rise up during twenty days. 'Tis thus they form them to that exercise until they can lie down easily with their burden. He who drives them sings and whistles all the way as he goes along, and the more he elevates his voice the faster is their pace. They pass four or five days with ease without being incommoded by thirst, even in the longest journeys; this has made some naturalists believe, that they have a reservoir in their stomach. But the falsehood of this opinion has been discovered, first by dissections; and secondly, because there are of them in Africa which never drink, and have no other refreshment but the green grass which they eat. The camel is

(d) Aristot. hist. anim. lib. v. c. 1. & seq. Philost. l. ii. c. 6. Plin. l. viii. c. 18. Polyæn. l. vii. n. 6. Ruy:ch, t. ii. p. 67. Travels of Tavernier.

naturally

Thibet, there is a small province watered by the Ganges, which has a prince of it's own, but a vassal of the great mogul, and who commonly resides in the city of Canduana. That of Sirinager is not far distant from it.

Udessa, Patna, Jesual and Mevat, have nothing remarkable but the mildness of the climate, the excellence of their fruits, and the fertility of the country.

Bengal is very well known by it's name, which it gives to the greatest gulph of Asia, which separates the two peninsulas of the Indies. This kingdom is near two hundred and fifty leagues from east to west ; it is looked (g) upon as the most fertile of all the Indies in sugar, silk, fruits, salt-petre, gum-lac, wax, civet, opium, pepper, and rice, with all which commodities it furnishes the most distant provinces. This country is cut thro' by numerous canals, which serve to water it, and to facilitate the transporting of mercantile goods ; their banks are covered with towns and villages extremely well peopled, and great fields of rice, sugar and wheat, much larger than that of Europe, three or four kinds of pulse, mustard, citrons, oranges, and a great quantity of small mulberry - trees for the nourishment of silk-worms. It is chiefly in this country that the rhinoceros and musk are to be found.

The finest canes which are brought into Europe, come from this kingdom. A small sort of canes grows here, much more supple than osiers, which the inhabitants work into vessels; those

(g) Mandelso, p. 290, & seq. Thevenot, tom. v. p. 201, & seq.
they

On this account we ought to prefer the simple and ingenuous account of father Alexander of Rhodes, a jesuit, and famous missionary, who preached the gospel with success in Cochin-China. This kingdom (*y*), according to him, was formerly a province of China, and it was separated from it two centuries ago by the revolt of a governor sent thither by the king of Tonquin, who caused himself to be declared king. There is no country in the torrid zone wherein the four seasons are better distinguished. Altho' the rivers are not considerable, yet they are the source of it's plenty. During the months of September, October, and November, they rise every fifteen days, overflow all the fields for three days, and render them so fertile by their slime, that they can sow and reap twice a year. The soil produces rice, several sorts of fruits and herbs, pepper, cinnamon, benjoin, eagle and calemba wood. Gold, silver, silk, cotton, and porcelain, are likewise to be found here. Amongst other rare animals are rhinoceros's and elephants of an extraordinary size and surprising docility. The sea abounds with excellent fish. There are sixty good harbours, which occasion the inhabitants to apply themselves much to trade and navigation. That of Faifo is one of the most considerable. The city is inhabited by Chinese and Japoneſe, who carry on a free trade under the protection of the prince. It is defended by a fortress, and situated on a navigable river a little above it's

(*y*) Travels, p. 60, &c.

mouth.

to lose, they set a vessel full of oil of nuts or sesame, for they have no olives, on the fire, and by it's side a small ax, but very sharp. He who loses the party, lays his hand upon a stone, and they cut off the joint of a finger, which is immediately dipt in the boiling oil in order to cauterize the wound. This cruel operation cannot cure them of their bad habits of gaming, and sometimes they are so obstinate, that they will not give over till all their fingers are cut off. Others take a match of cotton steep'd in oil, which they burn upon their hands, without betraying any sensation of pain. But it is time to pass to the second or middlemost class of islands.

Under that name are comprehended those which lie to the south of the peninsula beyond the Ganges; they are also called the *islands of the Sonde*, on account of the strait of that name which separates Sumatra and Java. It will be sufficient to insist on those two principal ones, together with Borneo.

The island of Sumatra is long and narrow, stretching in a straight line from north-west to south-east. One half of it's length faces the peninsula of Malacca, from which it is divided by a channel in some places no more than ten or twelve leagues over. Being cut almost in two equal parts by the equator, it stretches six degrees to the north, and as many to the south. It is two hundred and fifty leagues long, sixty broad, and about five hundred in circumference. The air here is warm, but less so than might be expected under the line. This temperature is at-

tributed to the cool breezes that blow from the sea, which ought to produce sensible effects on account of the narrowness of the island. It may be added (g), that naturally speaking the air ought not to be so warm in countries under the line and thereabouts, as in those which lie towards the tropicks ; because in the last, the sun stays longer in their zenith, and then the days are longer than the nights ; whereas in the first, the days and nights are almost always equal, the difference not being sensible, and besides the sun quickly leaves their zenith. The rainy season here commences with the month of June, and ends with October. If the rains cease for a short time, the sun shines out with great warmth, and draws up exhalations which render the air very unhealthy for strangers, and occasion very dangerous distempers. These vapours proceed chiefly from the lakes and marshes, which are very frequent in this island.

The soil is fertile, and would bring forth in abundance all sorts of grain if it was cultivated ; but they sow nothing but rice and millet. The best pepper in the Indies, except that of Cochin, is to be had here, as also cinnamon, ginger, sugar, benjoin, white sandal wood, citrons, oranges, honey, wax, and cotton. Cocoa trees are as common here as willows in Holland. They have mines of gold, silver, copper, tin, iron, lead, and sulphur. All are in great abundance, but those of copper and tin are most plentiful. In the high mountains which run thro' the

(g) Du Bois, p. 684

island,

island, all sorts of precious stones are to be found, with the value of which the inhabitants are little acquainted, and yet will not allow them to be sought after. One of these mountains throws out fire by intervals, like Vesuvius in the kingdom of Naples. The forests of this island are peopled with animals of all kinds, elephants, rhinoceros's, tigers, lions, leopards, stags, wild boars, porcupines, wild horses, civets, and apes.

The savages who inhabit the inland parts throughout all it's length, pretend to be the sole aborigenes and masters of the country. They entertain no commerce with Europeans, but eat as many of them as they can catch. Their kings or chieftains are perpetually at war with one another. He who dwells between Ticon and Manimcabo, almost under the line, is the richest of them all. He has in his possession the best part of the gold mines. His subjects carry it to the inhabitants of Manimcabo, who give them in exchange cotton stuffs, rice, and arms. The first time that the Hollanders anchored at this island in 1596 (b), those who inhabited the coasts, and are not so fierce as the rest, carried on board them cocoa nuts, pepper, cloves, nutmegs, cananas, poultry, and oranges. These merchandizes were exchanged for a few knives. It is true the Portugueze had insensibly joined in commerce with them, which they had carried on for near a century. But the Dutch, who have made it a law to themselves to engross all the commerce, have seized on

(b) Dutch voyages, t. i. p. 276.