

Pierre Poivre, 1719-1781

1834
T R A V E L S
O F A
P H I L O S O P H E R:
O R,
O B S E R V A T I O N S
O N T H E
M A N N E R S A N D A R T S
O F
V A R I O U S N A T I O N S
I N
A F R I C A A N D A S I A.

From the FRENCH of M. le POIVRE,
Late Envoy to the King of Cochin-China, and now
Intendant of the Isles of Bourbon and Mauritius.

G L A S G O W:
Printed for ROBERT URIE.
M D C C L X X.

181 pp

12mo.

The Chinese pay three or four times more for it than for that which the Dutch import from that island. They have several sorts likewise of admirable wood for joyner and cabinet work, particularly the rose-wood; the tea-wood is excellent for building, and is preferred to all others in the construction of the royal galleys, having every property that can be wished for either for beauty or solidity. From their mountains also, and from the forests with which they are covered, they procure ivory, musk, wax, iron, and gold in great abundance. These mountains too are full of game, such as deer, antelopes, wild goats, peacocks, pheasants, &c. The chace is free to all, but dangerous from the number of tygers, elephants, rhinoceros, and other carnivorous

and destructive animals, with which the forests abound.

The sea, which washes their coasts, as well as the rivers, are well supplied with excellent fish. Every one has the liberty of fishing; and in this the Cochin-chinese take great delight. I have already observed, that they live chiefly on fish and rice.

Their domestic animals are, the horse for the road, the buffalo for labour, and the cow, the hog, the goat, the goose, the duck, and hens of various kinds, for the table. These animals thrive extremely well, and are in great abundance. The king alone reserves to himself the exclusive right of breeding elephants for the war; and this is a reservation which no man envies him. He maintains generally four