



T H E
P R E S E N T S T A T E
O F T H E
C a p e o f G O O D - H O P E :

V O L . I I .

C O N T A I N I N G , T H E
Natural History of T H E C A P E ;

O R ,

A particular Description of all the Sorts of Animals and Vegetables in that Neighbourhood ; as of Beasts, Birds, Insects, Sea- and River-Fish ; Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Herbs, Roots and Flowers. Likewise an Account of the Mineral Productions, and of the Sea-, River-, and Spring - Waters there. Together with some Observations on the CAPE-Winds and Air.

To which is prefix'd,

A Topographical Account of the Colonies there ; as, of their Extent, Rivers, Springs, Mountains Roads, Places of Note &c.

Written Originally in High German,
By P E T E R K O L B E N , A . M .

Done into English, from the Original,
By Mr. M E D L E Y .

Illustrated with C O P P E R P L A T E S .

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M D C C X X X I .



To The Honourable
Sir HANS SLOANE *Bar^t*.
PRESIDENT of the
COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS,
And of the
ROYAL SOCIETY.

S I R,

THE following Work is
address'd to You, as to a
Gentleman of the most
extensive *Natural* Knowledge,
and the greatest Encourager of
the same, in these Dominions.

Your unequal'd Acquisitions
in this Noble Part of Learning,
together with your great and
generous Labours for its Ad-
vancement in the World, have
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long distinguish'd you as an Honour to this Kingdom, and a Blessing to Mankind; and give you a Right, methinks, to the Homage of every contemporary *British* Author, at least, who writes or translates upon the Subject. For my own Part, Sir, I pay it you very gratefully, and with a Pleasure which Writers of Dedications rarely know; as there never was an Occasion, perhaps, where a Patron could be wish'd to have more Merit, or an Author could be less suspected of Flattery.

'Tis, Sir, by Means of such elevated Minds as is your own, that the Dignity of Human Life is kept up, and its Blessings are
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known and valued. Without this generous Care of Providence, in Supplying the World, in every Age, with such illustrious Leaders for the Pursuit of Vertue and Learning, Mankind would abandon the Chace, and degenerate to Savages; the Paths of Vertue and Knowledge would be untrodden, and the several Kingdoms of the World become so many Wilds of Ignorance and Brutality.

The Turning of Dedications to the Celebration of such Merit and Excellence, is to redeem 'em from the Infamy of modern Prostitutions, and restore 'em to their ancient Simplicity and Glory. 'Tis to publish Prais-

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ses which have the Sanction of all Men and the Authority of Monumental Inscriptions.

But I enter, Sir, no farther into yours. 'Tis needless for me to say more, in Honour of a Gentleman whose Excellencies are known and celebrated throughout the Kingdom and throughout *Europe*: And I knew not how to say less, to do any Justice to such a Patron of Vertue and Learning, and such an Ornament to Both.

I am,

S I R,

with the profoundest Respect,

your most obedient,

and most devoted

humble Servant,

GUIDO MEDLEY.

The



T H E

P R E F A C E.

THIS Volume, containing the *Natural History* of the *Cape of Good Hope*, finishes the Translation of Mr. *Kolben's* Writings upon the *Cape*. And as his *History* of the *Hottentots* has been well receiv'd in this Kingdom, 'tis hop'd his *History* of *Nature* at the *Cape* will be receiv'd here with equal Favour. Nay, there is Room to hope, that it will meet with more, since we had several *Historical* Accounts of the *Hottentots* before his appear'd, but have Nothing, that I know of, like a *Natural History* of the *Cape*, from any other Hand.

'Tis an Honour to this Kingdom, that *Natural History* is at present so highly esteem'd in

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it. Mens' Minds must be considerably open'd, and considerably taken off from fordid Enjoyments, to relish so noble a Study. And the greatest Acknowledgments are due to those learned and illustrious Persons who have so handsomely establish'd its Reputation among us.

The Study of Nature enlarges the Mind, and opens it to the greatest Conceptions. The Study of Nature gives it the greatest Strength, the richest Knowledge, and the noblest Embellishments. The Study of Nature gives it, next to Divine Grace, that Wisdom and Firmness, that Beauty and Harmony, which are its highest sublunary Perfections. And not a small Part of 'em is to be deriv'd from the Contemplation of Nature in the Animal and Vegetable Worlds.

Laziness and Sensuality make up the whole Secret of the Aversion of Men to the Improving their Minds in the Study of Nature, or, indeed, in any other rational and elegant Way. But there is more Folly and Absurdity in the Neglect of this Study than of any other, and consequently less Excuse for it; because This, of all others, is the noblest, the most instructive, and the most open, and one of the First Duties likewise enjoin'd by Heaven on Mankind. With
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Regard to the Animal and Vegetable Worlds, for what other Ends can it be suppos'd the Almighty created them, than for the Use of Man, and for the Exercise and Improvement of his Mind, by Tracing, through their several Classes and Tribes, the Wisdom and Power and Goodness of the CREATOR? But how many Species in the Animal Creation, and how many Tribes in the Vegetable, are quite neglected by us! How many of Both are, to Most among us, utterly unknown! Every Species of Animals, and every Sort of Vegetables, has certainly some excellent Purposes annex'd to it; the Search of which was destin'd as Matter of Employment for the Mind of Man. And the Neglect of this Search is an Evil and a Reproach to him; and a much greater, perhaps, than most People will immediately imagine.

'Tis a common Reproach to Englishmen upon the Continent, that they are better vers'd in the History and Curiosities of other Countries than in Those of their own. And the Reproach is just; for they generally are so. 'Tis inexcusable in a Traveller to be able to give little or no Account of the Country he is born in. And equally inexcusable is it in him, if he has any Capacity, to be able to give no Account of the
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the Country he passes through. Yet this is the Case of the greatest Part of Mankind with Respect to the Animal and Vegetable Worlds. Most Men pass or float supinely through Life, without taking much Notice of either one or the other; or, indeed, of any Thing else but what concerns the Gratification of present Appetite. And it is not long that either of 'em have been seriously and fairly consider'd, or that any considerable Steps have been taken towards compleating the Discovery of 'em, among our selves. The Almighty has implanted in us the Passion of Curiosity, as a Spur to excite us to the Observance of our Duty and Interest in those Respects; our Duty, I say, as we ought to seek every Occasion of Contemplating and Adoring the Wisdom and Power and Goodness of the Divine Being in his Works; and our Interest, as we ought to be attentive to the present Advantages we may be able to derive from 'em. But, upon most Occasions of employing it worthily, our Laziness is too strong for this Principle. No Attractions, for most Men, like Those of Idleness and Sensuality, those worst Deceivers and Destroyers of the Mind.

Humane Life is shatter'd with Evils. They are the Lot of it; and will stick by it while it has
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has a Being. But, 'tis most certain, that thro' our obstinate Folly, we bring a great many Evils upon our selves, which would, otherwise, never have visited us. And 'tis as certain, that, thro' our obstinate Ignorance, or our Indolence (term it as you will) a great many Evils continue with us, and end fatally, which, would we but exert our selves a little in the Study of Nature, and receive those Lessons and Remedies which she is every Day solliciting us to receive at her Hands, we might quickly remove. With Regard, for Instance, to Diseases, there are, without Doubt, in the Vegetable World, the noblest Remedies for all or most of 'em. But, for Want of Enquiry this Way, how little of 'em is known! Our *Materia Medica* furnishes us with some Remedies from the Animal World. Doubtless, a great many excellent ones lie still undiscover'd there. And the Want of these Remedies is as much our Reproach as it is our Calamity,

The *Hottentots*, says my Author, get all or most of their Remedies from Vegetables. And, according to all Accounts, notwithstanding the proverbial Ignorance and Stupidity of that People, their Practice, both in Physick and Surgery, is wonderfully successful.

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There are, in the Animal World, many Habits and Instincts, the Knowledge of which would not a little contribute to the Safety and the Benefit of Men. Many Animals (perhaps all of 'em) are, in certain Illnesses, instinctively directed to effectual Remedies; which Remedies, in the like Cases, would, in all Probability, give the like Help to our selves. Every Sort of Animals has peculiar Ways or Habits; the Knowledge of which would enable us the better to avoid, destroy or entrap 'em; and which, whether the Effect of much Sagacity or the Contrary, would likewise convey to us very useful Lessons. That the Lion, for Example, bites not till he has given the mortal Blow: That he attacks not a Man, but when he is wroth or pinch'd with Hunger; nor even then, in Case he 'spies a Horse, -or any other Animal that is of his Prey: That he abhors and runs from Fire: And that his Bones are so hard as that, being broken to Pieces and dried in the Sun, Fire may be struck out of 'em as out of Flints. These are Notices that are sometimes of Use, and, at all Times, of some Entertainment. That the Rhinoceros marches always in a streight Line, furiously throwing over his Head the Stones which he finds in his Way; tearing up Trees, and de-

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molishing every Thing, weaker than Walls, that opposes him, and thereby giving fair Notice of his being at Hand : That he is pretty quick in his March, but very slow and awkward in Turning : That if the Man, the Rhinoceros makes at, slips but a little aside, the Rhinoceros loses Sight of him, and can not quickly get him again in his Eye : And that red Cloaths or even a red Rag enrages him : These are Matters which are sometimes likewise of Use, and, at all Times, of agreeable Amusement. That the Tiger-Cat, when he is out, in the Night, upon the Prowl, makes a dismal Howling and Yelling, and thereby brings his Enemies upon him, is a Matter that entertains and instructs not a little by its Absurdity. The Descriptions of dangerous Serpents, and the Ways of those Reptiles ; for Instance, of the *Shoot-Serpent*, as 'tis call'd at the *Cape* ; which being of the Colour of the green Branch of a Tree, winds it self about such a Branch, so artfully that it seems a Part of it ; and from thence darts it self in the Faces of Such as stand to gaze near it : These, I say, are Matters that are far from being beneath our Attention. The Beauty, the Variety and the Musick of the Feather'd Nations are enchanting Delights ; and their Instincts and Habits often nobly instructive and
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and amusing. Nor are Insects unprovided with Matter of excellent Remark. All the Ways of the Crane are Patterns of Caution and Vigilance. And all the Ways of the Ant are well known Lessons of Wisdom. The Simpathies and Antipathies in the Animal Creation are Matters of very large, very useful, and very noble Enquiry. I am apt to think, that a due Search into 'em would bring us acquainted with certain Laws of Nature, which at present we know not, in the Animal World ; and help us, by that Means, to some good Account of several, as yet unknown, Springs of Action in the Rational. But be that as it may, tis very certain, that every Class of Animals affords Matter of excellent Remark, and demands and was created for our Attention,

I cannot help adding a Reflection or Two more here with Regard to the Feather'd World, those beautiful merry Nations, which seem design'd by Heaven as a Kind of Soothers and Softeners of the Chagrin and Melancholy of Humane Life, and a Sort of Counterballance for the dull, the sour and the gloomy Parts of the Animal Creation. What Eye is not struck with those lovely Nations of Singers ! What Ear is not ravish'd with the Charms of their Melody ! We say,

say, after the *French*, that *He, who has no Taste for Musick, has no Soul*. I must confess, I think he has a very strange one, or that it is hamper'd under a very strange Sort of Organization, who is not sensible to the Melody of the Feather'd Nations. And can People have a Relish for the Musick of those beautiful Warblers, and not a Curiosity to look into their History; not a Desire to know their Make, their Instincts, and their Oeconomy; the Knowledge of which is both profitable and entertaining? The Variety of their Abodes, Habits and Instincts, their various Make, Musick and Embellishments, are Matters of the most delightful Amusement. Nor are the preying, the mute, or the unmusical Part of 'em unprovided with Matter of very noble and very useful Contemplation.

Who has not a Desire to behold the various Works, the *Wonders* of the Almighty *in the Deep*? Where in the World does the Humane Curiosity meet with stronger Excitements, or nobler Gratifications? What more curious than the History of the Inhabitants of the Waters? Creatures that act almost altogether out of Humane Sight; and the Make, Properties and Laws of which are Matters of infinite Entertainment
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to the Mind, and wonderfully declarative of the Wisdom and Power of the great CREATOR. He, who is insensible to such amazing Curiosities, falls miserably short of the Standard of Humane Understanding ; and is, without Doubt, insensible to all or most other Parts of the Creation.

But I leave the Animal World, and turn myself to the Vegetable. And what a Height, what a Variety, what a Profusion of Charms, what a Scene of Glories is here ! How does it teem with delicate Provisions for the Sustenance of Man ! How liberal of the noblest Medicines for the Healing of all his bodily Grievs ! What stately Growths for Shelter and Parade ! What Crowds of contending flowery Beauties ! What Gales of delightful Odours ! In a Word, what Delights for the Smell ! What Delicacies for the Taste ! What Charms for the Eye ! What noble Provision for the Support and the Delight of Life ! And how forcibly expressive is the Whole of the Wisdom and Power of the CREATOR, and of his Bounty and Benevolence to Man !

We are at present, perhaps, in *Great Britain*, more sensible to the Charms of the Vegetable World, and, with a View to the Gratifications of the Eye and the Palate, cultivate it likewise per-

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perhaps more than any other People. The many Treatises lately publish'd in this Kingdom upon Planting and Gardening, and the ready Sale they have met with ; the Numbers of large and beautiful Gardens about *London*, and in all the Counties of *England* ; the Pleasure Numbers of Gentlemen take in Cultivating 'em, and in Labouring in 'em with their own Hands; the Numbers of choice domestick Plants and Flowers, and the Numbers of curious Exoticks in 'em; and the Beauty and Perfection to which we have the Art of raising them all ; These Things shew, that if we are not the Leading People in the Cultivation of the Vegetable World, we shall, if our Passion this Way continues, quickly become so. Yet, as amiable a Figure as we make at present in this View, what Crowds are there among us, in all the Stations of Life, who never trouble their Heads about the Matter; who know little more of the Vegetable World than What it furnishes to the Table ; and have little Notion of either the Profit or the Pleasure of Cultivating or Considering this splendid Part of the Creation. And how little, after all, do Any of us know of its Medicinal Powers !

The Vegetable World, according to my Author, shines out at the *Cape of Good Hope* in all its

its Glories. Nor does, perhaps, the Animal Creation, in any other Part, appear with greater Pomp and Variety. The *Cape* is likewise considerable, for the Treasures it furnishes to the Mineral Kingdom, and for its Variety of Earths and Waters. Of all which Matters, together with the Topography of the *Cape-Colonies*, my Author, who resided many Years at the *Cape*. drew up, and publish'd some Time ago in *Germany*, a very curious Account; of which this Volume contains a Translation.

I have here, as I have done in the former Volume (containing the History of the *Hottentots*) sometimes abridg'd him. But I have not omitted so much as a single Particular of Fact, nor a single Reflection which, I believe, the Reader would think either very pertinent or very entertaining. I have likewise here, as I have done in the former Volume, frequently put him into another Method, because his own, I judge, is often very irregular. But the charming Air of Integrity and Good Nature, which appears in every Part of his Performance, makes it almost a Crime, methinks, to mention any Thing as a Fault in it.

GUIDO MEDLEY.



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The

A NEW MAP of the CAPE of GOOD HOPE

