



Caput Bonæ Spei Hodiernum.

T H E

Present State

O F T H E

CAPE of GOOD HOPE, &c.

C H A P. I.

*Of the Author's Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope.
Under whose Patronage and on what Account the
same was undertaken.*



Having felt, in my early Years, an ardent Desire to travel, and long sought in vain for a favourable Opportunity to gratifie so prevailing a Passion, I leave the Reader to imagine the Transport I felt when my generous Patron The Baron *van Krosick*, Privy Councillor to the late King of *Prussia*, whom I had the Honour to serve in Quality of Secretary, communi-

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municated to me his Resolution to send a proper Person, at his own Cost, to reside for some Time at the *Cape of Good Hope*; and that he had pitch'd upon me as such; to make and digest the proper Observations on the Heavenly Bodies, as they appear'd from thence, for the Advancement of *Astronomical Learning*.

This Overture of His Excellency, which was accompanied with the most generous Sentiments of my Capacity and Application, was the Crowning of my Wishes, and possess'd me with a triple Pleasure: First, as it gratified my Passion for Traveling; in the next Place, as it gave me an Opportunity of shewing my Attachment to His Excellency by my Activity in a Service he had so much at Heart; and lastly, as it might enable me to oblige the learned and curious Part of the World with an useful and entertaining History of a Country and People, of whom we have had hitherto such various and uncertain Accounts.

I accepted then of this Employment with the highest Expressions of Gratitude. And my Noble Patron having settled on me a yearly Salary, and promised me every kind of Support and Assistance, which might be in his Power, I withdrew to prepare, according to his Directions, immediately for the Voyage; and was employ'd in getting up such Books, mathematical Instruments and other Things as might be useful to me at the *Cape*, while His Excellency prepar'd Letters in my Favour to several Persons of Distinction in *Holland*, with some of whom he had negotiated as Plenipotentiary from The House of *Wolfenbuttel* at the Treaty of *Reswick*,
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and with others contracted a Friendship during their Residence at *Berlin* as Ambassadors from the States General. To those his old Friends the Baron explain'd and recommended his Intention, requesting them to introduce me to the Directors of the *India* Company at *Amsterdam*, and to employ their Credit with the said Directors for my Obtaining their Warrant for a Passage to the *Cape of Good Hope* on one of their Ships, together with their Letters Recommendatory to the Company's Settlements and Factories at or near the *Cape*, in order to my obtaining there such Countenance and Assistance as might be necessary to the Accomplishment of the Design.

On the 2d of *October* 1704 I took Leave of my generous Patron The Baron *van Krosick*, his noble Family, and all my Friends at *Berlin*, and set out for *Amsterdam*; where, on my Arrival, I found, in the *Texel*, several of the Company's Ships outward bound, waiting for a fair Wind. But finding my self unprovided with the mathematical Instruments chiefly necessary for the Undertaking, and understanding that nine more of the Company's Ships would be ready to sail by *Christmas* following, I judg'd it advisable to wait till then, that I might have Time to furnish my self completely. Accordingly I waited in *Holland* till *Christmas*: And having procured the Instruments I wanted from the best Hands in *Amsterdam*, I applied for my Passage to the Directors of the *India* Company; and being supported by my Patron's Friends, all eminent in the State, I obtain'd of the said Directors the Favours compriz'd in the following Articles.

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1. To pass to the *Cape of Good Hope* in one of the Company's Ships : To victual with the Captain: And to have a commodious private Cabbin, in which I might pursue my Studies, and digest my Observations in the Course of the Voyage, without Interruption. For which Passage and Privileges I was to pay at a certain easie Rate ; in which, on Account of the Goodness of the Design, and the Authority and Interest with which I came recommended, I was particularly favour'd.

2. To have allotted me, on my Arrival at the *Cape*, a convenient Place or Station in the Nature of an Observatory : And to be allow'd the Use of a Pendulum-Clock at the *Cape*, belonging to the Company.

3. To be allow'd the Choice of a Person out of the Garrison at the *Cape*, who (after instructing him in Astronomy &c.) should assist me in the Prosecution of my Design ; and when I return'd, continue his Observations, for the Publick Emolument, by the Help of the mathematical Instruments I should leave with him.

On the 22d of *December* 1704 I embark'd, with several other Passengers, in the Company's Ship the *Union* in the *Texel*, where, with eight more of the Company's Ships bound for *India*, we lay for a Wind till *January* the 8th following, when the whole Fleet sail'd out.

It being in the Time of the late War with *France*, to avoid the Enemy as much as possible, we steer'd our Course *North* about, round *Scotland*,
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but before we had made so far, the whole Fleet was twice or thrice separated by stormy Weather out of Sight of one another; a Thing, which being ordinary enough, I should not have mention'd but for the Sake of observing the Jealousy and Apprehension with which Friends that have been separated at Sea in Time of War, come in View of one another again. For having lost Sight of our Company, every Sail we descry'd afterwards was taken for a Privateer, as, on the other Hand, was the *Union*; and every Ship, on the Sight of her Friends, prepar'd for an Attack as on the Appearance of an Enemy, till we were all happily join'd again.

Being but a Novice in *Low-Dutch* when I left *Amsterdam*, and finding no other Language on board in which I had any Share, I was extremely at a Loss for Conversation and Intelligence in certain Matters till such Time as I had acquir'd a tolerable Knowledge of it by Application at Sea. But before I was Master of this Talent, I suffer'd enough; for using at first all possible Dispatch in the Acquisition of it, and being withal pretty inquisitive, I offended so often against Grammar and Idiom, and was so little understood, that I was grinn'd at from all the Quarters of the Ship, and particularly by the Savages before the Mast, who look'd upon me as a very strange Fellow. This rude Attack of the Ship's Company forc'd me into close Quarters. I retired to my Cabbin, and for some Time rarely stirr'd or look'd out: But wanting the Reliefs of Conversation there, I fell into a deep Melancholy; by means of which and the extremely piercing Cold I suffer'd in the Northern Climates I fell dangerously ill. My Blood was in a Manner

frozen in its Channels. For many Days my Life was despair'd of. But after such Medicines and Assistance as I was able to procure at Sea, my Sicknefs dwindled into an intermitting Fever ; from which, by the Blessing of God and the Skill and Care of the Ship's Surgeon, I was recover'd by the End of *February*.

By this Time we were got into a pretty warm Climate, which gave me wonderful Relief ; and it was with the highest Satisfaction I perceiv'd, that as I advanc'd towards the *Line*, and within the Sun's Activity, my Health and Vigour were augmented. The Phlegm and Melancholy that oppress'd me vanish'd as I approach'd the Sun, inso-much that under the *Torrid Zone* I found my self perfectly freed from every Incumbrance of either kind, and in Possession of as much Health and Chearfulness as a Man can wish. I shall not trouble the Reader by accounting for this, since, if he is any Thing of a Philosopher, he will easily do it himself. But this was not all my Happiness between the Tropicks ; for I had by this Time pick'd up so much *Low-Dutch*, that I could enter a little into Conversation ; and as if Change of Climate had introduc'd a Change into the Manners and Sentiments of the Ship's Company, every one (then somewhat appriz'd, I suppose, of the Patronage and Purpose of my Voyage) shew'd me Abundance of Respect, and were so assiduous to please and oblige me, that they not only gave me immediate Satisfaction in every Enquiry I made to which they could answer, but upon any Accident, or the Appearance of any Thing, which they thought deserv'd my Remark, there was a continu-

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al Emulation among 'em who should be the first to give me Notice of it. This was fitting my Humour and Design to a great Exactness; and by the help of a little Assiduity to oblige them on my own Side, I had the good Fortune to be so gratified to the End of the Voyage.

On the last Day of *February* we discover'd a small Whale, call'd a *North Caper*, which being a Token to the Sailors of our approaching the Islands of *Cape de Verd*, a Man must have a peculiar Genius for Farce and low Mirth to describe the Rejoicings that appear'd on this Occasion from Head to Stern. There was Musick, Singing and Dancing in all the Quarters and Cabbins of the Ship, with such Gambols and Feats of Activity as, perhaps, were never exhibited a-shore.

We were confirm'd in our Notion of being near *Cape Verd* by an Observation the next Day, by which we found we had pass'd the Tropick of *Cancer*; and by the Colour of the Sea, which, as Authors observe, takes a deeper Green near that *Cape*, and holds it almost as far as the *Cape of Good Hope*.

March 9. we discover'd the *Cape de Verd* Islands; and, on the 10th in the Morning, had the Islands of *St. Lucia*, *St. Nicholas* and *Chaon* distinctly in Sight. About Noon we descried the Island *del Fuogo*, by the Smoak which issues from the burning Mountain there. On the 11th we were close aboard the Island of *St. Jago*, but were drove off again by contrary Winds. On the 12th our Crew caught a large Shark, of which, though refus'd by most Nations, they made a hearty Dinner. The 13th

had like to have prov'd fatal to us, for steering our Course round the Island of St. *Jago*, (by which we had a distinct View of its high Hills and Cliffs, and of the Extent and Situation of the City) on a sudden we were becalm'd ; and the Tide setting strong towards the Island, we were in danger of driving against the Rocks ; and notwithstanding all we could do with our Oars, we were carried within 100 Yards of One, and had all of us given our selves for lost, when it pleas'd God to send a Southerly Wind, which deliver'd us from this Danger, and carried us safe into the Harbour of *Braya*, about 3 Leagues from the City of St. *Jago*.

We saluted the Castle of this Harbour with 15 Guns ; from whence, and from other Ships in the Harbour, we receiv'd the like Number. In the Afternoon we were visited by a *Portugueze* Gentleman, accompanied by a *Negro* Romish Priest, nam'd Father *Francisco Lombeer* ; but neither of them understanding *Dutch*, the Conferences ran in *Latin* between Father *Francisco* and my self, the Father interpreting for the *Portugueze*, while I did the same for the Captain. This *Negro*, who was of Romish Parents of *Angola*, having receiv'd an University Education at St. *Jago*, had been made Priest and Pastor, the better to promote and secure the Conversion of his Countrymen. But, if the Tree is to be known by its Fruits, his Zeal for Mirth and Good Living had eaten up his Faith and his Education. For entertaining them very liberally, this Father, not to mention other Articles, eat at least 2 Pounds of *Dutch* Cheese, drinking withal an astonishing Quantity of Brandy, which so clear'd his Pipes and lighten'd his Heels, that he fell a sing-

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ing and dancing with wonderful Spirit and Activity, and shew'd us so many Monkey-Tricks as convinc'd us all, that though he made a very bad Priest he would have made an excellent Harlequin.

At Parting the Father invited several of us to take a Dinner with him and view his fine Library, as he call'd it. The Invitation was accepted; and on the 15th we waited on him at his House, where he receiv'd and entertain'd us in a Manner handsome enough, shewing us his Library, which consisted of a Body of the Civil Law (he said he was Doctor of Laws) some Popish Legends, a few Breviaries and the like.

In the mean Time the Ship was taking in Wood and Fresh Water, and our Captain buying up fresh Provisions, which, with every Sort of Fruit produc'd at St. *Jago*, were incredibly cheap. I bought 100 sweet Oranges for half a Paper of Pins, and for the other half 5 fat Hens.

On the 18th of *March* we paid a solemn Visit to the Governour of the Castle, whom we had seen and accosted transiently before. Among other Curiosities, he shew'd us a fine walking Cane with a Silver-Head, which he had receiv'd as a Present from the Governour of the *Cape of Good Hope* as he pass'd by *Braya* in his Way to his Government. He was pleas'd to introduce us to his Lady, who was with several Women in her own Apartment. She receiv'd us with much Civility, and treated us with Bread of *Turkish* Wheat, Butter and Cheese. We return'd the Kindness with a Paper of Tobacco, which she and the other Women smook'd upon Sight in the Presence of us all. We

We had some of us Thoughts, while we stay'd at *Braya*, of making a Trip to the City of *St. Jago*; but we were dissuaded from that Design by Father *Lombeer* and several *Portuguese* Gentlemen, who represented the Ways we should be oblig'd to go as steep, craggy and most difficult of Passage, and the Ground withal to be so hot and parch'd by reason of the Scarcity of Rain (which sometimes, it seems, is deny'd to that Island for 6 or 7 Years together) that their Slaves were generally oblig'd to travel bare-footed, and sometimes perish'd through Thirst, there being rarely any such thing as Water or any Refreshment upon the Road. Upon which I must observe, that the Trees, Plants &c. in this Island are mostly nourish'd by the Morning Dews, which fall plentifully at certain Seasons. Yet it is a very fertile delightful Place, abounding with Cotton, Orange and Lemon Trees: The Vallies yield Sugar-Canes, Rice, Beans &c. which turn to very good Account; and the Tops of the Hills are crown'd with sundry Trees, as the *Indigo*, *Acacia rupina*, *Barba Jovis*, and a variety of rare and beautiful Flowers.

On the 19th of *March* we sail'd from the Harbour of *Braya* with a fair Wind for the *Cape of Good Hope*. Our Gales were brisk and favourable for some Time; but as we advanc'd to the *Line*, they slacken'd and fell away, till at length we were in a manner becalm'd for several Days together, and made but a very poor Reckoning. During this calm Weather the Crew, to divert themselves, acted several Drolls, which from time to time were receiv'd with Peals of Laughter by all their Countrymen on board: And I cannot help declaring it

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as my Opinion, tho' I took but little Pleasure in 'em, that however the maritime Nations of *Europe* may contend for superiour Qualities in a *Sea-Fight*, the *Dutch* bear away the Laurel from all the World in a *Sea-Farce*.

On the 7th of *April* we found our Selves directly under the Equator, when most of the Ship's Company languish'd through the long Calm and excessive Heat. The Scurvy seiz'd on Numbers, and soon after a burning Fever. Some were melancholy, others raving mad: And we were oblig'd to keep a strict Watch upon 'em to prevent their Throwing themselves into the Sea. But as vigilantly as the Sick were watch'd and tended, one of 'em was missing, without any One's being able to tell how, and never heard of after. And this was our Calamity for all the Month of *April*. We had sometimes abundance of Lightning, with terrible Claps of Thunder, and were often in Danger from the *Ecnepbias*, as the Naturalists call it, or the *Travado-Wind*, very frequent between the Tropicks, and of which I shall speak hereafter.

A Ring seen round the Moon for 3 Nights successively was taken for a triple Assurance of Wind: And accordingly it was follow'd by strong vigorous Gales immediately after. But I must not omit one Thing. Old Sailors affirm roundly, that the Settling of a Sea-Swallow upon the Steerage-Head is a sure Prognostick of a Storm of Thunder and Lightning. Whatever Grounds there are for this Notion, so it happen'd, that on the 9th of *April*, early in the Morning, that little Bird settled on our Steerage-Head; and at eight the same Morning,

ning, a large Flash of Lightning, follow'd by a roaring Noise like that of the Discharge of a Cannon, startled all the Ship. The Captain, who was at Breakfast in his Cabbin, imagining that some body had presum'd to discharge one of the Great Guns, ran out in a Fury to punish such a Rashness, when he found his Foremast shatter'd by Thunder, and three Splinters, of the Thickness of an Inch, and upwards of 15 Feet in Length, carried away. No Hurt was done to any one on board, though a great Number of Men stood about the Mast at the very Instant this happen'd ; nor any other Damage to the Ship. But when we came to consider the Risk of the Powder-Room by this Accident, in which we had more than 30000 Quintals of that dangerous Commodity, every Man's Heart shrunk and trembled within him ; and every one, I dare say, join'd heartily in the solemn Thanksgiving render'd immediately to Almighty God for this happy Deliverance from so signal a Peril.

Under the Equator our Water, as well Spring as Rain, became extremely bad. It got a noisome Stench, and became full of Maggots.

On the 22d 23d and 24th of *April* we were often in Danger of running upon the Rocks, which lie scatter'd for about 30 Leagues together near the Coast of *Brazil*. The *Portuguese* call them *Abrotos*, the Latinists *Aperi Oculos*; in both Languages signifying, *Open your Eyes ; Look out sharp*.

On the 1st of *May* we found, to our great Comfort, that we had pass'd the Tropick of *Capricorn*.
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After which, advancing every Day into more temperate Weather, our People, such as had contracted any Sickness or Ailment under the *Torrid Zone*, quickly recover'd. For my own Part, blessed be God, I pass'd the *Line* in perfect Health, without any Ailment whatever; only I lost my Hair entirely, and became quite bald; which did not much trouble me, since by this Effect of the Sun I became less liable to sweat, which was a Sort of Happiness to me in a Climate so hot as that I was destin'd to reside in.

In the Dead of the Night, between the 23d and 24th of *May*, we were surpris'd with the most furious Storm we met with in all the Voyage. We thought the Ship would have been torn to Pieces; and every one, to the oldest and stoutest Sailor on board, look'd for his Fate. I was, upon the first Attack, toss'd out of my Bed with such Violence, that I had like to have breath'd my last. But, it pleas'd God, it blew over without any considerable Damage to the Ship; and all we had to lament was the Loss of our Liquors and brittle Furniture; Bottles, Glasses, China and earthen Ware being toss'd out of their Places and broken against the Ship's sides and one another in a strange Medley of Ruins.

On the 5th of *June* we had a very thick Fog, which was said to be a Token of our approaching the *Cape of Good Hope*; and accordingly on the 10th the *Cape* was discover'd, to the great Joy of all the Ship's Company; and on the 11th we arriv'd safe in the Harbour, having lost but 2 Men in the whole Passage.

On the 12th I was introduced to the Governour of the *Dutch* Fort and Settlement, who, on the Sight of my Recommendatory Letters, treated me in a very friendly and affable Manner, and soon assign'd me a commodious Abode; where, when I was settled, I immediately address'd my self to the Work I was sent on, and with the utmost Care and Application, during a long Residence, collected the Materials of the present History.

C H A P. II.

- I. *Of the first Discovery of the Cape of Good Hope.*
- II. *A Quarrel between the Portugueze and the Natives, in which a Vice-roy of Brasil, with many others, is slain.*
- III. *The Revenge of the Portugueze for this Insult.*
- IV. *The Dutch begin to touch at the Cape.*
- V. *M. van Riebeeck, a Dutch Surgeon, observes the Conveniences of the Cape for the Dutch India Company.*
- VI. *He commands the Expedition to make a Settlement there.*
- VII. *His Treaty with the Natives and other Successes.*
- VIII. *A Placard is publish'd by the Directors, inviting Persons to go and settle at the Cape; and great Numbers repair thither.*
- IX. *The Company sends young Women to the Cape, to be match'd with the Batchelors.*
- X. *A short Description of the Country.*

Bartholomew Diaz, a Portugueze Admiral, appears to be the first *European* who discover'd the *Cape of Good-Hope*. This he did in the Year 1493, in the Reign of King *John II.* of *Portugal*, and gave it the Name of *Capo dos totos los Tormentos*, from the boisterous Winds that are almost always roaring there; which Name the same
King

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King *John* was pleas'd to change into *Capo del buonne Esperanço* or *The Cape of Good Hope*, because, said that Prince, there is now Good Hope of making prosperous Voyages to the *East-Indies*. And by this Name it has been known in *Europe* ever since.

But *Diaz* did not land at the *Cape*. He only went so near as to observe its Geography, Bays and Anchorings, with his Account of which the King his Master and the whole Kingdom of *Portugal* were extremely pleas'd. Yet did not the Admiral *Vasco de Gama*, who went out next with the Command of the *Portugueze India* Fleet, though he fail'd by the *Cape*, venture to go or send a-shore there. He contented himself to return home with a bare Confirmation of the Observations of *Diaz*.

Notwithstanding the Satisfaction the whole Kingdom of *Portugal* found in this Discovery, not one of 'em landed at the *Cape* till the Year 1498, when the *Portugueze* Admiral, *Rio d'Infante*, in his Voyage to *India*, went a-shore there. But neither did he establish any Interest for the *Portugueze*, nor treat with the Natives. All he did was to enlarge the Account of the Advantages the *Cape* might furnish to the Trade of *Portugal*.

At his Return he found *Emanuel* on the Throne, to whom reporting his Discoveries at the *Cape*, that Prince was so well satisfied, that he gave Orders for the immediate Equipment and Departure of another Fleet for *India*, with express Instructions to the Admiral to endeavour a Settlement for *Portugal* at the *Cape of Good Hope*. This Fleet according

dingly went out, and arriv'd at the *Cape* ; but having met with Reports that the Natives were *Canibals*, or Men-eaters, the Courage of the Fleet was not Proof against them ; and all that was done on this Occasion was the Killing of Beasts of Chace, and Wild Fowl, and the Taking in of fresh Water, at the *Robben* Island near the *Cape*; where there is a Cave, in which the *Portuguese*, employ'd on this Occasion, us'd to shelter themselves, while they staid here, from tempestuous Weather, and which is known by the Name of *Portugal* to this Day.

II. At length, *Francisco d'Almeida*, Vice-roy of *Brasil*, returning from thence with a Fleet for *Portugal*, took his Course by the *Cape*, and anchoring there, sent a Party on shore to traffick for Cattle (with which it was known by this Time the Country abounded) and try the Humour of the Natives. But this Party, on whatever Jealousy of the *Hottentots*, being repuls'd and driven back to the Ships, the Vice-roy was prevail'd upon to order a second Visit with a considerable Reinforcement, and for the Encouragement of the Men, to put himself, with eleven Captains of the Fleet, at the Head of them. But this prov'd a very fatal one; and His Excellency seem'd to have some Presages of its miserable Issue ; for when he was got into the Long Boat, upon this Occasion, he cried, *Ab ! whither do you carry 70 Years* (for so old he was) with a Cloud upon his Brow that seem'd to forbode the Storm that follow'd. And the Event was, that one of the Men refusing to give a *Hottentot* a Pair of Bras-Buckles he had on, with which the Savage was mightily taken, the *Hottentot* receiv'd this Refusal as an Affront, and made it the Foundation of

a Quarrel, which all the *Hottentots* present espousing on the Side of their Countryman, it soon became general ; and the *Portugueze* were attack'd with so much Fury, that 75 of 'em were laid dead on the Shore, among whom was the Vice-roy, who was shot through the Throat with a poison'd Arrow. The Rest fled in Confusion to their Ships; and immediately the whole Fleet weigh'd.

III. The *Portugueze*, extremely mortified at this Disgrace, vow'd a smart Revenge; which yet they seem'd not to look for till 2 or 3 Years after, when the Fleet for the *Indies* anchoring again at the *Cape*, they found the Art of Cajoling the *Hottentots* ; and knowing their Fondness for Bras, they carried a large Bras-Cannon a-shore, under Pretence of making them a Present of it. This Piece of Artillery they had loaden'd with a Number of heavy Balls, & fasten'd to the Mouth of it two long Ropes. The *Hottentots* , ravish'd to receive such a Weight of their ador'd Metal, and jealous of no Design, laid hold of the two Ropes in great Numbers, as they were directed, in order to drag it along ; and a great Body of 'em being extended in Two Files all the Length of the Ropes, and standing, Cheek by Joll, full in the Range of the Shot, the Cannon was suddenly discharg'd, and a terrible Slaughter made of 'em. Such as had escap'd the Snot, fled up into the Country in the wildest Conternation, and left the *Portugueze* to reimbark at their Leisure. And from that Day to this, it seems, they have dreaded both the Touch and the Sight of a Fire-arm.

IV. After this it does not appear, that any *Europeans*

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visited the *Cape* till the Year 1600, when the Ships belonging to the *Dutch* Company of Merchants Adventurers, then known by the Name of *The far Trading* Company, since by that of the *East-India* Company, began to touch there.

This Company, which has ever been distinguish'd by a superiour Genius for Trade and Navigation, had not been long erected before the *Cape* was found of great Convenience to it. However, the *Dutch* did not immediately see all its Advantages. For many Years they only touch'd there, in their Voyages to and from *India*, to traffick for Provisions. For this Purpose they went from time to time in Bodies up into the Country, and having thrown up a little Fort near the Harbour, the Ruins of which still remain, they there secur'd themselves and their Purchases in the Night-time, till they had shipp'd 'em.

They made, indeed, another Use of the *Cape*, while Things went only in this Way; and it was a notable Contrivance. Every Commander, going out, was provided with a Square Stone, upon which, at his Departure from the *Cape*, he caus'd the Ship's Name, his own Name, and the Names of the principal Officers to be fairly cut, together with the Day he arriv'd there, and the Day he departed. This Stone, with such Inscriptions, was buried in a certain Place without the Fort, and under it was put a Tin-Box seal'd up, containing Letters from the Captain and others to the Directors of the Company, together with such other Letters as any Persons on board should think fit to send to *Europe*. This Stone and Box were taken
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up by the next *Dutch East-India* Ship that pass'd by the *Cape* in her Return, and by her convey'd to *Holland*. And whoever considers the Situation of the *Cape*, as a Sort of Half Way-House in the *India* Voyages, and the Satisfactions the Company by this Means receiv'd from time to time concerning the Fortune and Condition of their Ships, will own it an excellent Contrivance.

V. After this Manner, & this only, the *Dutch* used the *Cape* till the Year 1650, when their *India* Fleet anchoring before it for the usual Purposes, Mr. *Van Riebeeck*, a Surgeon belonging to it, had the Penetration to discern the still greater Advantages which the Company might reap from the *Cape* by the Means of a very little Cultivation. He saw the Country was plentifully stock'd with Cattle; that the Soil was rich and capable of generous Productions; that the Natives were tractable, and the Harbour commodious and improveable. He saw to what a Degree the *Dutch India* Trade might be secured and facilitated by Means of the *Cape*. In short, he saw that it was highly adviseable for the *Dutch* to make a Settlement there. He digested his Observations, and, on his Return to *Holland*, laid them before the Directors of the *India* Company; who were so well satisfied therewith, that immediately after, in a grand Consultation on the same, they came to a Resolution to attempt a Settlement at the *Cape* without Loss of Time.

VI. Accordingly Four Ships were immediately order'd out for the *Cape*, with all the Materials, Instruments, Artificers and other Hands necessary in such an Expedition. The Surgeon, *Van Riebeeck*, was appointed Admiral, with a Commission, on

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his Arrival, to act as Governour and Commander in Chief in the intended Settlement, and with Power to treat, manage and act for the Introduction and Establishment of the *Dutch* in such Manner as he should think fit,

VII. *Van Riebeeck* arriving safely with these 4 Ships at the *Cape*, the Natives were so captivated with the Presents he brought 'em of Bras-Toys, Beads, Tobacco, Brandy &c. and so charm'd with his own Address and Good Humour, that a Treaty was soon set on Foot, and almost as soon concluded, wherein it was agreed, that in Consideration of such a Quantity of certain Toys and Commodities to be deliver'd to the Natives as might cost 50,000 Guilders, the *Dutch* should have full Liberty to settle there. This was immediately perform'd; and immediately the *Dutch* took Possession of the *Cape*, which with a great deal of Ceremony was deliver'd up to 'em. The Traffick of the *Dutch* with the Natives was likewise, by the same Treaty, establish'd on a good and solid Foundation, with many new beneficial Privileges and Regulations for the former.

Next, the Governour, *Van Riebeeck*, rais'd a square Fort, in which he built Dwelling-Houses, Ware-Houses, and an Hospital for the Reception of the Sick; and to which he added proper Outworks to secure himself against any Attacks from the *Europeans*.

VIII. His Excellency likewise having provided himself in *Europe* with such Plants and Seeds as he judg'd would be proper at the *Cape* & he could
conve-

conveniently carry with him, set and sow'd the same in a Piece of Ground he chose at the Distance of two Leagues up in the Country, partly a Hill and partly a Vale, dividing the Ground into a Vineyard, a Fruit- a Flower- and a Kitchen-Garden. Every Thing prosper'd so well, and he reap'd in due Season the Fruits of his Labours in such Plenty, that the Company being inform'd of this Success, and of the happy Progress he had made in other Matters, publish'd a Placard, offering to every Man, who would go and settle at the *Cape*, 60 Acres of Land, to pass in Inheritance to his Posterity, provided that every one, in the Space of three Years after taking Possession of his Allotment, should have so far improv'd the same, as not only to maintain himself out of it, if he should have no other Means of subsisting, but likewise to contribute from time to time at a certain Rate to the Maintenance of the Garrison: And leaving every one at Liberty, who should not chuse to continue upon the Settlement at the End of these Three Years, to sell or make over his Allotment, and go where he pleas'd.

These Conditions were so acceptable to People, that they embark'd from time to time, as the Ships went out, in Numbers for the *Cape*; and the Settlement, by this Means, soon began to make a considerable Figure. Such as could not furnish themselves, the Company furnish'd upon Credit, with Cattle, Grain, Ploughs, Tools and Utensils, and what was necessary for their Subsistence and the Tillage of the Ground, till such Time as they had reap'd the Fruits of their Labours, and could provide themselves.

IX. But all this Time an Evil was growing upon 'em, against which they had made no Provision. *European* Women were very scarce among 'em; and what they had were Wives, who had transported themselves with their Husbands; while the Settlement swarm'd with young Fellows who wanted the Comforts of Marriage. They were settled each upon his Farm, and in a way of Thriving. They therefore wanted Women as much for the Sake of Issue and domestick Help as for sensual Gratifications. But they had no Inclination to meddle with the *Hottentot*-Women.

An Account of this Grievance being dispatch'd to *Amsterdam*, the Directors of the *India* Company applied for Redress to the States' General, and obtain'd of their High Mightinesses a Permission to transport to the *Cape* such young Women from the *Charitable* Foundations and *Orphans* Houses as were willing to go thither. Accordingly a fine Troop of young Females were quickly levied for the Voyage; who arriving safely at the *Cape*, were by the Governour, to whose Care they had been commended, bestow'd upon such as wanted Wives, with all the Indulgence and Regard that could be shewn to their several Fancies and Inclinations on such an Occasion.

These last Measures were attended with very happy Consequences. The Settlement being firmly establish'd, and all in Tranquility and Good Humour, they encreas'd and multiplied to such a Degree, that in a few Years, being still join'd by new Settlers from *Europe*, they began to extend themselves in new Colonies along the Coast. They

They are now divided into Four principal Ones. The First is at the *Cape*, where are the Grand Forts, and the Capital City, call'd also the *Cape*; in which, and about it, are many genteel Buildings, with all Sorts of Accommodations: The Second is the *Hellenbosch*; the Third, the *Drakenston*; and the Fourth, the *Waverish* Colony. The Company has likewise bought, for a future Increase of People, all that Tract of Land, call'd *Terra du Natal*, lying between *Mofambique* and the *Cape*; for which they paid in Toys, Commodities and Utensils to the Value of 30,000 Guilders. So that the Province is now become of great Extent, and the Government a very considerable Thing.

X. The Country about the *Cape* is for the most Part full of Rocks and Mountains, which, for a long Time after the Discovery, being only view'd at a Distance, were look'd on and reported as barren. But the Truth is, their spacious Tops are cover'd with rich Meadow, every where enamel'd with various Flowers of uncommon Beauty and Fragrancy, and abounding with delicious Springs, running in a Variety of Streams into the Valleys.

These Mountains in clear Weather are seen at the Distance of 15 Leagues at Sea.

On the Skirts of 'em, and here and there between 'em, are Groves of Trees, affording excellent Wood for the Turner and Joiner.

The Plains and Valleys are all lovely Meadow-Lands, where Nature appears in such a Profusion of Charms as to ravish the Eye that beholds her.

They every where smile ; are every where adorn'd with beautiful Trees, Plants and Flowers, some of them of so fingular and so attractive a Shape and Beauty, and all of them so fragrant, that they fill the Eye with incredible Delight, and the Air with the sweetest Odours. Among these are the *Aloe*, and other curious medical Trees, with Herbs of medical Qualities in Abundance.

The Soil is rich, and capable of every kind of Culture. It bears every Sort of Grain, the Vine and every Kind of Fruit-Tree. Not a Root of Thousands that have been transplanted thither from *Europe*, has fail'd through any Disagreement with the Ground.

The Country abounds with Salt, produc'd by the Heat of the Sun on Rain-Water. And up and down are several natural Hot Baths, of a Mineral Water, which has been found of excellent Use for the Recovery of Health in a great many Cafes.

But the Region about the *Cape* is subject to boisterous Winds: And these blow generally from the *South-East* and *North-West*, and have certain Seasons for reigning in one and the other Quarter. While the Sun is in the *Southern* Signs, they hold in the *South-East*; while in the *Northern* Signs, in the *North-West*. In the *South-East* they are troublesome and dangerous to the Ships coming in; in the *North West*, to the Ships at Anchor: And frequently blowing a Hurricane, they not only endanger the Shipping, but tear and shatter the whole Country, doing incredible Damage to the Corn on the Ground and the Fruit on the Trees.

Yet

Yet, on the other Hand, are these rude Winds of excellent Use. Purging the Air, and keeping it, as they do almost continually, in a very brisk Agitation, they contribute not a little to the Health of the Inhabitants, who, when these Winds lie still for a Week or Ten Days together, complain in Numbers of the Head-Ach and other Distempers, which vanish when they blow again.

CHAP. III.

I. *Of the true Name of the Natives about the Cape of Good Hope.* II. *Of Their Origin.* III. *Of Their Language.*

I. **F**EW Histories have been handed into the World with so much Falshood and Imperfection as the Accounts we have hitherto had of the People about the *Cape of Good Hope*. The Vanity of Travellers, the Prostitution of mercenary Pens, and the Credulity of Mankind were hardly ever more manifest than in the Relations that have hitherto prevail'd concerning 'em. The Authors we have upon the *Hottentots* not only differ widely in the most essential Points of History, but hardly have the good Luck to hit upon the Truth in any one Article; and, in particular, have err'd egregiously in deriving and assigning their true Name. To enumerate the different Appellations that have been given them by different Writers, with their several Reasons, would be equally tedious and unprofitable. I shall only set down the Opinions of two or three of the most considerable.

Father *Tachart*, a mighty Traveller, undertaking in his Description of the Kingdom of *Siam*,
to

to give some Account of the *Hottentots*, says, the Name of *Hottentot* does by no means belong to 'em any otherwise than as a Nick-Name given them by the *Europeans*; probably, says he, on the Score of their generally making Use of that Word when they meet with Strangers.

The *Sieur Merklin* likewise declares it to be a Nick-name, in his Account of his Voyage to the *East-Indies*, where he says, the *Hollanders* assign'd the People of the *Cape of Good Hope* the Name of *Hottentot* from their using that Word in their Dancings and mirthful Assemblies more frequently than any other.

Dapper likewise says it is a Nick-name, but that it was given them on Account of their Stammering. *Arnold* too affirms it to be a Nick-name, but accounts for it from their singing *Hottentottum Brocqua*, whereby, says he, they express their earnest Desire for *Dutch Bread*, whereof they are great Lovers, and for which they often exchange their Cattle.

With regard to Father *Tachart*, I could never learn at the *Cape of Good Hope*, that the People accosted Strangers with the Word *Hottentot*. I always found, that in accosting an *European* they us'd the Words *Mutsche Atze* i. e. *I salute you, Sir*: And the People far up the Country, on the Appearance of Strangers, are us'd to say in *Dutch*, *wat Volk*, i. e. *What People*?

And for *Merklin* and *Arnold*, they are very wide of the Matter 'Tis true, the Natives of the
Cape

Cape do use the Words *Hottentottum Brocqua* very frequently in their Merriments; but *Hottentot* is not a Nick-name deduc'd from this Custom, according to these Authors; nor is the Meaning of the Words *Hottentottum Brocqua* such as *Arnold* has assign'd them. The Origin of this Phrase, and of the Custom of singing and pronouncing it frequently in their mirthful Assemblies, was this: The Chaplain of a *Dutch* Ship sent a *Hottentot* upon an Errand, and promis'd, if the *Hottentot* should discharge it well, to reward him with a huge Piece of *Dutch* Bread, or a certain Quantity of Tobacco. The *Hottentot* having duly executed his Commission, demanded of the Chaplain the Performance of his Promise; but he, it seems, had so little Conscience, that he utterly refus'd to give him any Satisfaction. The poor Fellow communicating this Abuse to his Countrymen, among whom, ignorant and wretched as they are, all Improbability is abhorr'd, they instantly, in Detestation and Derision of the Chaplain, compos'd, after their Manner, a Song on him, in which the Words *Hottentottum Brocqua*, signifying, *Give the Hottentot his Hire*, are often repeated. This Song quickly obtain'd all over the Country, where every' one was made acquainted with the Chaplain's Knavery; to perpetuate the Memory of which, and to caution one another against the Wiles and Circumventions of Strangers, this Song was fung when any Strangers came within Sight or Hearing of them, as it is often at this Day.

This Relation I had from some of the most intelligent *Hottentots*, with whom I convers'd intimately for many Years, and likewise from several ancient
and

and discreet *Hollanders*, who had been long acquainted with Persons and Things in the several *Hottentot* Nations,

Authors then are in the Wrong, who deliver the Appellation of *Hottentot* only as a Nick-name of the People about the *Cape of Good Hope*. It is, as far as can possibly be enquired, their original national Name, by which they have always call'd and distinguish'd themselves. All the *Hollanders* at the *Cape* believe it to be so: The *Hottentot* Nations know of no other Name; and if they had had any other before the Arrival of *Europeans* among them, it were hardly possible it should have entirely vanish'd in so short a Space of Time, and not have remain'd somewhere in so vast an Extent of Country.

Some confound the *Hottentots* with the *Caffres* or *Keffres*, and call them by that Name. But the *Caffres*, who inhabit the *Monomotapa*, tho' encompass'd in a Manner by the *Hottentot* Nations, are a very different kind of People. These Nations resemble one another indeed in their Hair, large Lips and flat Noses. But the Flatness of the Noses of the *Hottentots* is not natural to 'em. Besides, the People properly call'd *Caffres* are black; and their Faces shine in such a Manner as frequently to dazzle the Eyes of Beholders; whereas the *Hottentots* are of a dingy olive Colour. They differ again in their Way of Living, and in so many other Particulars, that this Confounding of the two Nations could only be owing to a great Ignorance of both. *Hubner* indeed distinguishes between the *Caffres* and the *Hottentots* in many Particulars, but
is

is so often wrong in his Accounts of the last, that he is not to be consider'd on the Subject.

II. The Opinions of Writers concerning the Origin of the *Hottentot* Nations are as various and Obnoxious as the Methods they have taken to account for the Name of 'em; and, indeed, 'tis a difficult Matter to settle it. Nor am I my self, after all my Researches, able with any Certainty to point it out. All I can undertake in the Matter, is to do it with more Probability than others have done; or, at least, to furnish out more Lights and better Materials for such an Enquiry.

When Records are wanting, and Tradition is grown a blind Matter, concerning the Origin of a People, all that can be done in it, is to compare that Tradition, together with their Customs and Institutions, with the Histories, Institutions and Customs of other Nations, and to fix it, if Nothing shall hinder, where the Parity most appears. This being the Case with the *Hottentots*, who have neither Record nor Writing nor Notion of either, I shall first set down their Traditions and then pursue their Customs into other Nations.

The *Hottentots* say, their First Parents came into their Country through a Window or Door-Passage (the Word for both in the *Hottentot*-Tongue being the same) That the Name of the Man was *Nób*, and of the Woman *Hingnób*: That they were sent into their Country by God himself, whom they call *Tikqoa*: And that they taught their Descendants to keep Cattle, and to do a great many other Things.

This

This Tradition, which prevails and is carefully kept up in all the *Hottentot* Nations, looks extremely like a Fragment of the Story of *Noah* who surviv'd the Flood, and who descended by a Window or Door from the Ark in which he had surmounted it. And I know not whether at the Bottom of the Account it will not be illustrated into all the Authority of such a Remain.

In their Customs and Institutions they cannot be said to resemble any People besides the *Jews* and the Old *Troglodytes*. They resemble the *Jews* in their Offerings, the Regulation of their Chief Festivals by the New and Full Moon, and in their Withdrawing at certain Times from their Wives. They agree with that People in abstaining from certain Sorts of Food; in particular, Swine's Flesh, which hardly any of 'em will taste. At a certain Age they undergo a Sort of Circumcision. And Women are excluded the Secret and Management of certain Affairs much as they are among the *Jews*. And in several other Customs do the *Hottentots* agree with that People. But as they have no Memory of the Children of *Israel*, of *Moses*, or the *Law*, Things of which, had they deriv'd their Origin or these Customs from any of the *Tribes*, some Traces, in the highest Probability, had remain'd, it cannot be thought, on any good Grounds, that they deduce either their Origin or these Customs from Them. A far greater Probability lies on the Side of the *Troglodytes*, the Descendants of *Abraham* by his Wife *Cbetura*, who not only observ'd all or most of the Customs in which the *Hottentots* agree with the *Jews*, but likewise several others, observ'd by the *Hottentots* at this Day. As 1.

* They

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 31

1.*They gave their Children the Names of favourite Beasts, as of an Ox a Sheep &c. as do the *Hottentots*. * 2. They tied their old People, unable to support themselves (each Family its own) to Stakes, in little Huts erected for the Purpose; and allow'd them a small Sustenance till they died: And this do the *Hottentots* * 3. Their manner of Hunting was the same: And as they excell'd in Swiftnes, so do the *Hottentots*. 4. * Their Funeral Ceremonies were such as are observ'd by the *Hottentots*.

These Customs, in which the *Hottentots* agree with both *Jews* and *Troglodytes*, being, 'tis pretty certain, all or most of 'em as old as the Time of *Abraham*, which was but 300 Years after the Flood, refer their Tradition so clearly to *Noah*, as to put the Matter almost out of Doubt. But then how comes it to pass, if the *Hottentots* are descended of the Old *Troglodytes*, that they have retain'd a Tradition of *Noah*, and not preserv'd along with it some Memory of *Abraham*, so eminent in his Day, or of the Story and Country of the *Troglodytes* their Ancestors, of whom they know Nothing? Upon the whole, their Customs referring their Tradition so clearly to *Noah*, if they are not descended of the *Troglodytes*, History will help us no farther; and we have Room to suppose (as strange as it may seem) that they have remain'd were they are ever since the Deluge.

III. Their Language is certainly a Composition of

* *Diod. Sic.* and *Bobem.*

the strangest Sounds that ever were utter'd by any People. Some will have it, that 'tis easily acquir'd by Strangers in all its Compass: Others, that it can never be acquir'd by a Stranger. Some look upon it as the Disgrace of Speech; others deny it the Name, as having Nothing of Sound or Articulation that is peculiar to Man in it, but resembling, say they, the Noise of irritated Turkey-cocks the Chattering of Magpies and the Hooting of Owls. And *Dapper* in particular says, 'tis disagreeable to an *European* to hear it, much more to learn it.

It may, indeed, I think, be pretty justly consider'd as a Monster among Languages, and such a One likewise as is not to be conquer'd but by the Struggles of Youth, or with the greatest Difficulty afterwards. For my own Part, tho' I resided many Years among them, and in all that Time did my utmost to acquire it, I could never roundly succeed in the Matter. Nor could I find any in all the Settlement who could speak it tolerably but such as were either born among them, or arrived there very young. One Word often signifies several Things, of which many of 'em are entirely ignorant; and the Pronunciation depends upon such Collisions or Clashings of the Tongue against the Palate, and upon such strange Vibrations and Inflections of that Member, as a Stranger cannot easily imitate, and neither they themselves nor hardly any else can describe. Hence it is, that they are look'd upon as whole Nations of Stammerers. On the other Hand, the *Hottentots* are equally embarrass'd in the Pronunciation of other Languages. They are easily taught to *understand* either *Dutch* or *French*, as many of 'em actually do;

But the unaccountable Motions and Postures of the Tongue to which their own Language subjects them, renders them, for the most Part, hardly intelligible when they come to speak any other.

The Generality of Words or Sounds in the *Hottentot* Tongue, yielding to no Form of Writing or Pronunciation known in *Europe*, 'tis next to impossible to deliver any Thing of it from the Press that can merit the Name of a Specimen. But for the Entertainment of my Reader, who will perhaps be glad to see Something of it offer'd to his Curiosity, I shall exhibit Part of a List of such Words or Sounds as have been found the most pliant to the Pen. The whole List was first publish'd by *Junckerus*, in his *Comment* upon the *Life and Writings of Ludolf*; to whom, as to a learned and curious Man, it was presented by One who had been at the *Cape*. But it has a great many Faults. The Words I have collected from it are here amended: And Marks are set over such Syllables as require the Clashings of the Tongue I have mention'd.

A Collection of *Hottentot* Words,
with their Interpretation.

<i>Chauna</i>	A Lamb.
<i>Ducatóre</i>	A Duck.
<i>Kgou</i>	A Goose.
<i>Kamma</i>	Water & other Liquids.
<i>Bũnqvaá</i> f. <i>Áy</i>	Trees.
<i>Quaiba</i>	An Afs.
<i>Knonm</i>	To hear.
	C

The

<i>Nouw</i>	The Ears.
<i>kboekari</i>	A Bird, call'd Knorhan.
<i>Quaqua</i>	A Pheasant.
<i>Kirri</i>	A Stick, or Staff.
<i>ikaka</i>	A Whale, or North-
<i>Nombba,</i>	The Beard. (Caper.
<i>Horri</i>	Beasts in General.
<i>K á á</i>	To drink.
<i>Knabou</i>	A Fowling-Piece.
<i>Durié-sá f. Bubaa</i>	An Ox.
<i>Qu' Arabó</i>	A wild Ox.
<i>Hek káp</i>	An Ox of Burthen.
<i>Oúd f. Ounequá</i>	The Arms.
<i>Ounwie</i>	Butter.
<i>Quiencha</i>	To fall.
<i>Houtéo</i>	A Sea Dog.
<i>Likbanée</i>	A Dog.
<i>Bikqua</i>	The Head.
<i>Kouquequa</i>	A Captain.
<i>T kamma</i>	A Stag.
<i>Qvao</i>	The Neck.
<i>Kouquil</i>	A Pidgeon.
<i>Qua u</i>	The Heart.
<i>Anihúri</i>	To Morrow.
<i>Kgoyes</i>	A Buck, or Doe.
<i>Kou</i>	A Tooth.
<i>Tikquoa</i>	God.
<i>Cham ouna</i>	The Devil

<i>Komma</i>	A House.
<i>Hacqua</i>	A Horse.
<i>Gboaã</i>	A Cat.
<i>Koukurt</i>	Iron.
<i>Kôô</i>	A Son.
<i>Kammo</i>	A Stream.
<i>Koukerekerey</i>	A Hen.
<i>Tiká</i>	Grass.
<i>To qua</i>	A Wolf.
<i>Koetsire</i>	A Word of Scandal.
<i>Thoukou</i>	A dark Night.
<i>ikoume</i>	Rice.
<i>Koamqua</i>	The Mouth.
<i>Ghoudie</i>	A Sheep.
<i>Kcbou</i>	A Peacock.
<i>Gona</i>	A Boy.
<i>Gois</i>	A Girl.
<i>Tk^u auoklou</i>	Gun-Powder.
<i>Choakamma</i>	A Baboon.
<i>Kuanebou vel ikeubouw</i>	A Star.
<i>Camkamma</i>	The Earth.
<i>Mu</i>	An Eye.
<i>Quaouw</i>	Thunder.
<i>Tquassouw, f. Kquussomo</i>	A Tyger.
<i>Tkouw, f. Chá-kbouw</i>	A Sea-Cow.
<i>ikaá</i>	A Valley.
<i>Chomma</i>	The Belly.
<i>Taya</i>	The Wind.

In Numbering they count no higher than *Ten*, or have no more Terms than will reckon from an *Unit* to *Ten*. In reckoning their Cattle, and in other Computations, when they come to *Ten* they return to an *Unit*, and count to *Ten* again; and coming a tenth Time to *Ten*, they pronounce the Term twice, as *Ten Ten*, or *Ten times Ten*, for a Hundred. They then begin anew for a second *Ten Ten*; and coming to a Tenth, they pronounce the Term thrice, as *Ten Ten Ten*, or *Ten times Ten Ten*, for a Thousand, and so on. The *Hottentot* Words for the Numbers up to *Ten* are :

Q'kui One, *K'kam* Two, *K'ouna* Three, *Hakka* Four, *Kó o* Five, *Nanni* Six, *Honko* Seven, *Kbyssi* Eight, *K'beffi* Nine, *Gyssi* Ten.

CH A P. IV.

A General Character and Description of the HOTTENTOTS.

- I. *The Excesses of Authors on this Point.* II. *The Hottentots learn the Languages of Europe.* III. *They excell in Agriculture.* IV. *They make excellent Servants.* V. *Character of a Hottentot call'd Claas.* VI. *His Story.* VII. *The Hottentots are the laziest People in the World.* VIII. *And the filthiest in their Diet.* IX. *Yet they live long, and have few Distempers among them.* X. *They besmear their Bodies all over with Fat.* XI. *They abhor the Fat of Fish.* XII. *Reasons why they thus be-daub themselves.* XIII. *The general Shape, Stature and Features of the Hottentots.*

I. **A**uthors are to be blam'd for their Wantonness and Precipitation in the Characters they have drawn of the *Hottentots*, whose Minds
and

and Manners, tho' wretched enough, are not so wretched as they have made 'em. If these Characters were not written in the Genius of the *Drama*, rather to excite Terror or Laughter than to give a true History of Things, they must be the Effect of that wanton Malice which aggravates every Thing, or of that Vanity which puts People upon giving the Characters of others before they know 'em. It has been publish'd in several Languages, and is, I believe, at this day generally apprehended throughout *Europe*, that the *Hottentots* are so brutal a People as to be, in a Manner, incapable of Reflection : That they have no Sense of God or Religion ; nor any Notion of Order or Oeconomy : That they are Nations of Savages, with hardly so much as a Tincture of Reason or Humanity. These are Excesses of the Imagination, which have made a very wretched People more wretched in *Europe* than they are at home : For the *Hottentots* are by no means so stupid and senseless as these Things amount to. That they have some Sense of God and Religion, appears already from what I have said in the last Chapter of their Traditions and Customs, and will appear more fully in another Place : And that they are not so stupid, irrational and inhuman , as they have been represented among us, I have Evidence enough.

II. I have known many of them, who understood *Dutch*, *French* and *Portuguese* to a Degree of Perfection ; and, allowing for Defects in Pronunciation , which I have already accounted for , express'd themselves roundly in those Languages. And One I knew who had gain'd the *English* and *Portuguese* in a very little Time ; and

having conquer'd the Habits of Pronunciation he had contracted from his native Language, was said, by good Judges, to understand and speak 'em with a surprizing Readiness and Propriety.

III. In Agriculture they excell all the *Europeans* who reside among 'em, who often call upon 'em for Advice in the Management of their Lands. And in many other Arts and Customs, as I shall shew in their proper Places, these People discover good Marks of Capacity and Discernment, could they but be persuaded to make a right Use of 'em.

IV. They make excellent Servants, and perhaps the faithfullest in the World. And the *Europeans* at the *Cape*, who entertain a great Number of 'em, are so fond of 'em in this Capacity, that they are loth to part with 'em. With regard to their Fidelity, tho' Cutlery-Ware, Wine, Brandy and Tobacco are Things they infinitely love, and for which they will at any Time barter the most valuable Things they have, they will neither themselves diminish, nor suffer any one else to diminish, the least Drop or Particle of these Commodities when committed to their Trust. It is surprizing to see the Care and Fidelity, with which they acquit themselves on such Occasions. And with regard to Capacity, they are often employ'd by the *Europeans* in Matters that require no small One, and generally acquit themselves very handsomely. A *Hottentot*, whose Name was *Claas*, was a Man of such Integrity and Discernment, that he was often entrusted by the late Governour of the *Cape*, *M. Van der Stell* with large Quantities of Wine, Brandy, Rice and other Commodities, and employ'd to truck the
same

same for Cattle among the *Hottentot* Nations at a great Distance from the *Cape*, attended by a Guard of Two arm'd Men of the Governour's own People. He executed his Commissions with Address and Reputation, and generally return'd the Governour much more and much finer Cattle than the Commodities he carried out could be judg'd to be worth. To these Qualities he join'd the greatest Humanity and Good Nature; and, notwithstanding the Ignorance in which he was born, and in which, with respect to Religion, he always liv'd, was a Man of excellent Morals, and who had perhaps as much Charity and Benevolence for Mankind as the best of us all. Many an *European* in Distress has been reliev'd by that generous good natur'd Creature, who, by Means of a handsome Stock of Cattle, Goods in which the Wealth of the *Hottentots* chiefly consists, was very well able todo it.

And here I cannot help digressing upon the Story of this Man, in which there are Things so very affecting, that, far from doubting of the Reader's Pardon, I question whether, when he knows it, he will think he could have forgiven me the Suppression of a Matter that warms the Breast with such a Mixture of Indignation and Pity.

Claas was descended of a wealthy *Hottentot* Family; that is to say, a Family rich in Cattle. His Father had given him a very handsome Stock, which, by Care and good Management, encreas'd in his Hands very considerably. His ordinary Residence was at a good Distance from the *Cape*, where for some Time he liv'd very happily with his Wife, whom the *Hottentots* look'd upon as a very great

Beauty. His Happiness in this Woman, who lov'd him tenderly, was the Envy of all his Nation, and particularly of the King or Captain of it, a Tyrant, who not being able to shake her Constancy by Artifice and Entreaty, took her away by Force. There being no Relief for *Claas* against so powerful a Ravisher, the *Dutch* never intermeddling in private Quarrels among the Natives, he bore his Misfortune like a wise Man, suppress'd his Grief, and troubled no One with it. But his Wife gave full Play to her Resentment; and equally regardless of Threats and Flatteries, fill'd the Air with Cries, and deafen'd the Tyrant with continual Reproaches. He shut her up, and again plied every Art he was Master of to quench her Passion for her Husband, and cool her to an Acquiescence with his own Love; but finding them all ineffectual, and judging they would ever be so while *Claas* was living, he resolv'd upon his Destruction.

Claas had cherish'd the *Dutch*, and contributed to their Establishment at the *Cape*, in a very extraordinary Manner. His Zeal for their Service and Security had procur'd him many Enemies among his Countrymen. He had likewise, by this Time, with the greatest Fidelity and Applause, discharg'd several Commissions from the Governour for the Exchange of Rice, Wine, Brandy &c. in the *Hottentot* Nations for Cattle. And the Fame of his Services, and of his Integrity and Address in Negotiations with his Countrymen, had reach'd the City of *Amsterdam*. He perform'd every Thing for the Governour without any Stipulation for his Trouble; and was always contented with what his Excellency was pleas'd to give him. But this Assiduity

ty, Care and Fidelity of *Claas* rais'd him many Enemies among His Excellency's People. Many of 'em had been entrusted and employ'd to traffick with the *Hottentot* Nations in the like Manner; but none of 'em returning with Cattle that bore any Proportion, either in Number or Value, with his, the Governour had laid them aside, and committed the whole Business to *Claas*, who had now manag'd it for a considerable Time with the highest Reputation.

It seems, the Governour's People, who had been thus employ'd, had us'd not only to embezzle and consume the Liquors deliver'd them to trade with, but likewise to keep back, from Time to Time, some of the Cattle exchange'd against the Governour's Commodities, as purchas'd with their own. This Roguery, which was not suspected by the Governour, having administer'd plentifully to their Luxury, and put their Fortunes in a flourishing Way, they could not leave so delicious a Road without taking up a mortal Hatred to the Man whose Merit had thrust them out of it. Accordingly they conspir'd his Destruction; and knowing how earnestly it was sought by the *Hottentot* Chief before mention'd, they made him of the Conspiracy. It was resolv'd, that this Chief should give Information, that *Claas* was caballing among the *Hottentot* Nations to raise an Insurrection against the *Dutch*, in order to root them out of the Country; and that he had offer'd to put himself at the head of it. And *Claas's* Father, who was lately dead, having left him so large an Estate in Cattle, that he was now look'd upon as one of the richest *Hottentots* in the Country, it was farther resolv'd, that this Ravisher should accuse *Claas* to the Governour, of Embezzeling his
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Excellency's Commodities, and defrauding him from Time to Time of a great Number of Cattle; and alledge, that it was chiefly by means of such Roguery that he was grown so rich.

Information being accordingly given, in all the Extent of these Resolutions, the Governour, who had declar'd himself a thousand Times satisfied of the Creature's Fidelity and Affection to him and the Settlement, either not suspecting the Trick, or longing, upon hearing of his great Herds of Cattle, for the Hecatombs which would fall to himself by *Claas's* Conviction, order'd out the Ensign of the Garrison, who was the Arch-Conspirator, with a Party of Soldiers to seize and bring *Claas* before him. The honest Creature was then at the Village where he made his ordinary Residence; where the Ensign and his Party arriving early in the Morning, before *Claas* or any of the Inhabitants were stirring, this Commanding Officer had the Wick- edness to flank the Place, and bid the People Good Morrow with a Volley of Shot into the Cottages, before they had any Notice of his Arrival. *Claas* fallied out upon the Alarm; and discovering and knowing the Assailants, he address'd himself in *Dutch*, which he spoke readily, to the Ensign, and demanded the Meaning of such an Insult upon the Village. The Ensign reply'd, they were come to seize and carry him before the Governour to answer to a Charge of Conspiracy against the *Dutch*: And calling upon him to surrender, *Claas* return'd, " I conspire against the *Dutch*, Sir! I, who have given so many Proofs of my Zeal and Affection for 'em! I, who have serv'd them so long and so faithfully." The Ensign replying, that it was
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not his Business to expostulate with him, and that if he did not surrender himself immediately he would fire upon him : “ And is it a Truth then, replied *Claas*, “ that there is such a Charge against me? But pray have Patience with me. What then have these done, Sir, (pointing to the Men, Women and Children of the Village, who were now assembled in a great Fright) what have these done, that their innocent Lives should be expos’d to your Fire. Are they too charg’d with Conspiring against the *Dutch*? If I am only concern’d, it was surely a great Rashness, Sir, to attack them. Besides, is this a Fortification? Was I upon the Defence? Or am I in a Post of Defence? Did you, before your Fire, send me Notice of your Arrival? Did you summon me to surrender, and did I refuse? And for my Fidelity to the *Dutch*, and the Warmth of my Heart for their Service, there is hardly a Man I would just now have sooner chosen for a Judge of these Things than your Self. I have given so many Proofs of both, and so many of these have pass’d through your own Hands, that I can neither see how you, nor any one else in these Nations, can entertain a Doubt about ’em.” After this Manner was the ingenuous Creature reasoning when the Ensign (in whom, no doubt, *Claas* had excited some stinging Reflections) commanded him Silence : And summoning him again to surrender himself, upon Pain of immediate Death, *Claas* came forward, and put himself into their Hands ; telling them, “ that as he was innocent, he was afraid of no Trial : They might carry him where they pleas’d.” Upon which they bound him with Ropes (the greatest Ignominy, next to a shameful Death, that can befall a *Hottentot*) and led him away. *Claas*

Claas being brought before the Governour and confronted with his Accusers, denied the several Matters laid to his Charge with such a Serenity of Temper (the constant Attendant of a brave Innocence) and refuted them with such Strength of Reason, rehearsing numerous Instances (many of them recent, and, as it were, the last Things done) of his Fidelity and Affection to the Governour and the Settlement, while his Accusers could only barely suggest what their Malice had contriv'd, without producing any Thing that had the least Air of a Proof, that People presently saw it was all a base Conspiracy to ruin him; but observing by the Governour's Behaviour, that his Excellency would not see it, they did not think it safe to attempt a publick Detection of it upon the Place. In short, *Claas* was, upon the bare Suggestions of his Enemies, convicted before the Governour of every Charge brought against him, and immediately sentenc'd to Banishment for Life to the *Robben* Island, together with Confiscation of all his Effects. And this Sentence was immediately put in Execution.

This done, His Excellency appointed the Ensign of the Garrison (and this was the Ensign's chief View) to succeed *Claas* in the Agency of Trafficking, for the Company, with the *Hottentot* Nations for Cattle. But from this Man's foolish and perfidious Management the Integrity and Abilities of *Claas* became every day more illustrious. His rash and arbitrary Proceedings among the *Hottentot* Graziers begot ill Blood; and frequently hazarded the Good Understanding between the *Dutch* and the *Hottentot* Nations. Being quickly suspected
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of Breach of Truſt, he was put under ſuch Reſtrictions as took away all the Honour of his Employment. And at length, his Folly and Knavery together had brought all the Matters of his Province to ſo wretched a Paſs; the *Hottentots* had rais'd their Markets to ſuch a Degree; the Price of Cattle was ſo enhanc'd to the Company; the Purchaſes became ſo heavy, and the Profit ſo light, that the Directors put a Stop to all Commerce with the *Hottentots* on the Company's Account; and order'd, that all Supplies of Proviſions for them ſhould be bought up among their own Burgers at the *Cape*, who ſold 'em much cheaper. And on this Foot only ſtands the Commerce of the Company for Proviſions at the *Cape* at this Day.

I have already mention'd the Humanity of *Claas*, and his generous Paſſion for the Relief of *Europeans* in Diſtreſs. Among many others who had taſted of his Hoſpitality, and felt and bleſs'd his bountiful Hand in the Time of their Miſfortunes, was Capt. *Theunis Gerbrantz van der Schelling*. The Captain, having loſt his Ship in the Bay of *la Goa*, was forced to go by Land to the *Cape* through ſeveral *Hottentot* Nations, and to ſubſiſt in his Journey on the Charity of the People. In this Diſtreſs he was met by *Claas*, who entertain'd and reliev'd him in ſo bountiful a Manner, that, to the Honour of the Captain for his Gratitude, as well as of the *Hottentot* for his Hoſpitality, the Captain delighted to tell the Story; and upon the Repair of his broken Fortunes, which was not effected till after *Claas's* Death, would be ever expreſſing his Sorrow, that the generous Creature was dead to whom he ow'd a thouſand Returns of Kindneſs. This Gentleman
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was at the *Cape* in the Time of *Claas's* Troubles; and having seen how Matters were carried against him, he made, upon his Arrival in *Holland*, such Representations to the Directors in Favour of him, that they dispatch'd Orders to the *Cape*, by the very first Opportunity, for the Recalling of *Claas*, and the Restoring of every Thing that had belong'd to him. Recall'd he was accordingly : But as for his Cattle, the Wolves that had devour'd 'em could be brought to disgorge but a very small Part. He repair'd however, with the Trifles that were restor'd to him, very contentedly to his old Seat ; but had not dwelt long there before the *Hottentot*-Chief before-mention'd murder'd him, for his better Security in the Enjoyment of *Claas's* Wife, whose Person, while her Husband was living, he had ever found a very precarious Possession: And perhaps too for other Reasons : But be that as it may, the *Dutch* never intermeddling between *Hottentots* in Matters where they themselves are not concern'd, the Ruffian was never call'd to an Account. Such is the Story of *Claas* the *Hottentot*. I now return to the Character of his Countrymen; and having already shewn the best Side of it, I shall now exhibit it on the Reverse.

VII. And the first Thing I shall remark in this View of the *Hottentots* is their Laziness. They are, without doubt, both in Body and Mind, the laziest People under the Sun. A monstrous Indisposition to Thought and Action runs through all the Nations of 'em : And their whole earthly Happiness seems to lie in Indolence and Supinity. They can think, and to Purpose too, if they please ; but they hate the Trouble of it; and look upon every De-
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gree of Reasoning as a vexatious Agitation of the Mind. They therefore shun Argument as the Invader of their Quiet, and never reason but in Cases of downright Necessity. Fire not a *Hottentot's* Mind by Violence, and he is all Supinity and *Reverie*. They can be active too, if they please; and when employ'd by the *Europeans*, are as diligent and expeditious as any People in the World: But let not a *Hottentot* be rous'd by any present Appetite or Necessity, and he is as deaf to Employment as a Log; and when upon his Legs, will hardly stoop for any one Thing in the World he does not either particularly dote on or immediately want. When Appetite or Necessity urges, he enters readily into Employment, and is all Activity: When these are gratified, and his Obligation to serve is at an End, he retires to enjoy himself again in his belov'd Idleness. This is the general Character of the *Hottentots* in the Point of Action.

VIII. It is to this general Laziness of the *Hottentots* we must ascribe that Part of their Character, in which all Writers agree, and in which they are very right, that they are in the Matter of Diet the filthiest People in the World. Yet some Writers have said too much upon this Point, and made them much more ravenous and uncleanly than they are. *Merklin*, in particular, says, that all the *Hottentots*, without Exception, devour the Entrails of Beasts, unclean's'd of their Filth and Excrement, and but half broil'd; and that, whether sound or rotten, they look upon 'em as the greatest Delicacies in the World. I have spent many whole Days among them in several Parts of the Country; and took every Opportunity to observe their Manner of
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preparing and eating their Victuals, and never could discover any good Ground for this. I always found, that when they had Entrails to eat, they turn'd and stript them of their Filth, and wash'd 'em in clean Water. They then boil'd 'em in Beast-Blood, if they had any; if not, they gave them a thorough Broiling. Indeed they are nasty enough, while they do all this, to make an *European* abhor the Victuals, but not nasty enough to deserve such a Stroke in their Character as *Merklin* has given them. Yet I had once a Fancy to taste with them of Entrails boil'd in Blood; and whatever the Reader may think of my Palate or Judgment in Eating, I should have found it very agreeable Food if I had not known the Cooks, or could but have banish'd from my Imagination their uncleanly Manner of Dressing it. They are, indeed, very ravenous when the Meat is once set before 'em, and devour it, Helter skelter, with astonishing Greediness and Dispatch. But for the Eating of rotten or tainted Entrails, I could never see or hear of any such Thing among 'em.

IX. Yet nauseous and uncleanly as is their Manner of dressing their Victuals, it agrees very well with their Constitutions; and Nothing do they seem to suffer by it either in Health or Length of Days. Most of 'em live to a great Old Age. Few are the Distempers among 'em; and rarely do they visit 'em. I speak of the Majority of the *Hottentots*, who keep to the Diet of their Country, and drink no Wine, Brandy, or other strong Liquors. For such of 'em as drink these Liquors, shorten their Days, and suffer under Diseases before unknown to 'em. Even the Viands of the *Dutch*,
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dress'd and feason'd after the *European* Manner, are very pernicious to them.

Dapper says, that both Sexes of the *Hottentots* frequently live to 110, or 120 Years of Age; and affirms, that some of 'em have liv'd out 130 Years. Their Longævity is certain; but I could not be taught at the *Cape* to fix it at any Number of Years either in Generals or Particulars. I have seen many hale stout Fellows among 'em, who were said to be very old; one in particular, a Fisherman, who, I have been assur'd by Persons of Credit, appear'd to be at least a Man of 40 in the Year 1652, when the *Hollanders* erected the Fort; and yet when I left the *Cape* he was a stout active Fellow, in Appearance not much turn'd of 50, though he could not be then much less than a 100. And I have heard the Fellow himself affirm, that he never was once sick or disorder'd in his Health in all his Life.

X. What makes the *Hottentots* still a nastier Generation, is a Custom, observ'd from their Infancy, of besmearing their Bodies and Apparel (a Skin o'er their Shoulders) with Butter or Sheep's Fat, mix'd with Soot that gathers about their Boiling Pots, in order to make 'em look black, being naturally, as I have said already, of a Nut-or Olive-Colour. Of this Custom, which is repeated as often as the Sun or Dust licks up the Paint, they are so devoutly observant, that they will not omit it on any Account in the World, if they can come at Fat or Butter to perform it. The meaner Sort of 'em, who are but ill provided, are for the most Part oblig'd to make Use of Butter or

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