



THE  
 RARE AND MOST VVONDERFULL THINGS WHICH  
 Edvard VVebbe an Englishman borne,  
 hath seene and passed in his troublesome tra-  
 uailles, in the cities of Ierusalem, Damasco,  
 Bethlema and Galely: and in the lands  
 of Iewrie, Egypt, Grecia, Russia,  
 and Prussia Iohn.

VVherein is set forth his extreme slauerie  
 sustained many yeares together in the Gallies  
 and vvarres of the great Turke, against the  
 lands of Persia, Tartaria, Spaine, and  
 Portugale, vvith the manner of  
 his releasement and com-  
 ming into England in  
 May last.



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V Vebbe his trauidiles.

The King of Spaine, at which towne he landed his armie  
 an houre before day, thinking to haue take it by treachour  
 and thereupon in great fury scaled the walls with ladders:  
 but the watch behoued vs, and on a sodaine, cried Come,  
 armie, which was some done: so: every man take him to  
 his toles & weapons of defence. But it is woorthy of me-  
 morie, to see how the women of that towne did pile them-  
 selues with their weapons, making a great massacre vpon  
 our men, and murdered 500 of them in such space and  
 furious lost as is wonderfull: we needed not to haue sea-  
 red their men at all, had not the women bin our greatest  
 euertyoy, at which time I my selfe was maister Com-  
 mander of the Admirals Galley, perchaunced greatly vpon a be-  
 tent shipp with a Spanish Ruyd Battling, for that Battling  
 where they were had the; & where I could not stay.

It is but a few years since, that in the cite of Constan-  
 tinople, there happened a great plague, & ere there was  
 in fire more the space, seuen hundred thousand persons,  
 of which time Spallot the Turk And as at that time the  
 Turke company was there, a lost number of his soldiers.

From Samarko he went into the land of Prester John  
 who is a Christian, and is called Christian de Senouir:  
 that is, the Christian of the Desert: against this Prester  
 John, I went with the Turke power, and was then  
 their maister Generall in the field, the number of which  
 soldiers sent thither, was the hundred thousand men,  
 who went thither by land, and pitched themselves in bat-  
 tle array at Saran, nere to the place where the sonne of  
 Prester John kept his Court. There Prester John  
 with his power, slew of the Turkes to the number of 100  
 thousand, one by pollicie of his Armes, & by the  
 next, in a secret he had his soldiers in the  
 water to many Turkes perished. The next day following,  
 the Turke power did incompass Prester Johns Citie  
 and to be him prisoner, and sent him to a Prisoner of  
 great

V Vebbe his trauidiles.

great Turkes Court then being at Constantinople, but  
 some after, Prester John himselfe made an agreement be-  
 twix the great Turke and his sonne, that the one should  
 not demand tribute of the other, and so his Court was re-  
 leased and sent home againe.

This Prester John of whom I spake before, is a King  
 of great power, and he hath a very honourable Court, & is  
 the father of that Country, and hath euery day to sit  
 him at his Table 60. Kings, and hath euery day to sit  
 him at his Table 60. Kings, wearing leaden Crownes  
 on their heads, and these were in the meate vnto Prester  
 Johns Table: and continually the first dish of meate set  
 vpon his Table, is a great mans skull cleane pickt and laid  
 in blacke earth, putting a line in it that he is but earth  
 and not a King. These 60 Kings are all his Kings vpon  
 seuerall places, and they haue their deputies to supply their  
 places, and these Kings line continually in Prester Johns  
 Court, and go no farther then they may be still attendant  
 vpon him, without leave from their Emperour Prester  
 John.

In the court of Prester John, there is a wilde man, and  
 an other in the high Grate at Constantinople, whose al-  
 lowance is euery day a quarter of raw Hutton: and a hen  
 and man byeth for some notorious offence, then are they al-  
 lowed euery day a quarter of mans flesh. These wilde men  
 are chained fast to a poste euery day, the one in Prester  
 Johns court, and the other in the high Grate of Constan-  
 tinople, each of them hauing a Cartell cast about their  
 shoulders, and all euery their bodies they haue went full  
 long haire, they are chained fast by the neck, and will speake  
 by deuoure any man that commeth in their reach.

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There

VV 55 his trauales.



There is a beaſt in the ſort of Beffer Iohn, called Arls  
 and haue ſome heard they are in ſhape like a wilde Cat,  
 and are of the beaith of a Madie Curre.

In this court a ſort ere is fowles called pharoes fowles,  
 which feathers are very beautifull to be woone, theſe fowles  
 are as big as a Turkey, their fleſh is very ſwaete, and their  
 feathers of all manner of colours.

There is Swans in that place, which are as large as  
 game as the Swans of England, and their feathers are as  
 blew as any blew cloth.

VV 56 his trauales.



I haue ſene in a place like a Perſie adiey nry vnto Pe-  
 ter Iohns Court, that were ſub ſeruytore Queeres  
 and Diaphants all alike at one time, and they were ſo tame  
 that I haue played with them as one wuld playe with  
 young Lambes.

### V Veerbe his trauailes.

When he was set at his table, there is no  
lett as in other places, as in other places, but a  
table, by which he is set, and then two knives are layde  
vpon the table, and some letters vpon the blades  
of the knives are written.

Being thus in the house of Doctor John, I traualled  
into the same regions of the Dunne, every degree being  
in dist vnder the sun.

I was at the Red sea, at the place where Moyses made  
passage with his woman for the children of Israel, where I  
saw a place called the ground Maria, the diables but of  
the water, and against it is written some Gallies and  
shippes haue fought at one time and cannot conquer her:  
and this is vnder the government of the great Turke.

I haue bene in the Courts of the three great Patriarkes,  
the first whereof is kept at Jerusalem, the second at the  
gran Caer, and the third is at Constantinople: there haue  
their Cortes in very lately lost, and attended on by none  
but Priests.

When I was at Jerusalem I saw the sepulcher where  
Christ was buried: it is as it were in a  
vault, and hath seven doores and seven rows of marble steps  
of stairs to goe downe into the same, and then at the bot-  
tome of the stones there is a faire Chappell, with an Al-  
tar and a Lampe burning continually day and night before  
it, and the altar is set of a white earth so white as chalke,  
and a tombe of the same earth made and laid vpon stone,  
whereon are the letters written, but I could not reade  
them. The great Turke hath some people comming by  
the way thereof, and hath therefore builded at his owne  
charge an Hospitall to them, Jerusalem, which his Gene-  
rals doe keep: and this Hospitall is to receiue all Pil-  
grims and trauallers to lodge in whensoever they come.  
And all that come to the sepulcher doe pay ten Crownes  
a peece, whereof the Turke hath but one, and the rest goes

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### V Veerbe his trauailes.

to the Church, and so they may stay there as long as they  
list to lodge in that new Hospitall, and haue lodging, bread,  
bivials and water so long as they will remaine there: but  
no wine: such as come thither for pilgrims haue no beds  
at all, but lie vpon the ground on tuckey Carpets, and be-  
fore the sepulcher of Christ there is made euery day,  
& now may you remeasse there, but a man that is a pure  
virgin: there was one that died while I was there, that  
died saide and sing masse before the sepulcher, and he  
was an hundred and thirtie yeares of age before his death,  
and now another is in his roome, but whether the old man  
that died is, or this which is now in the place to sing and say  
the saide Masse, were pure virgins I know not, but sure  
I dare not sweare for them, because they be men, and flesh  
and blood as other are.

After that I had thus long traualled and spent my time  
in the warres and affaires of the great Turke, I was re-  
ued againe to Constantinople, where at my arrival a pri-  
my loafe of English sterling money, was worth a crestone  
of gold, such was the sickness, misery, and death then  
vpon the said city, and happy was he that could get  
bread to eat. Nevertheless, because I was a Christian,  
and for that the Turke had no cause presently to use me in  
my office of gunnership, I was there imprisoned, where  
I saw two thousand Christians pind vp in stone walls  
leckt fast in yron chains, grievously pained, with ex-  
treme penury, and such as wished death rather then in such  
misery to liue: amongst these was I placed, and take  
parte with them according to my hard hap that  
the warres had not entred me before I came thither.

Thus I remained there with the rest, guarded and daily  
watched, that we could stir no manner of way, there we  
were suffered to worke vpon any manner of trade or oc-  
cupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we  
did or made, we sold to the Turkes, and they gaue vs ma-  
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