

THE
Rare and most wvonderfull things which Edvv. Webbe an Englishman borne, hath
seene and passed in his troublesome
trauailes, in the Cities of Ierusalem,
Damasko, Bethlehem and Galely:
and in the landes of Iewrie,
Egypt, Grecia, Russia,
and Prester Iohn.

Wherein is set forth his ex-
treame slauery sustained many yeeres to-
gether in the Gallies and ywartes of the great
Turke, against the landes of Persia, Tartaria,
Spaine, and Portugale, with the manner
of his retreatment and comming
into England in May last.

Newly enlarged and corrected by the Author.



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the King of Spaine, at which Toluve he landed his Army an houre before day, thinking to haue taken it by treason: and thereupon in great fury scaled the wals with Ladders: but the watch bewayped vs, and on a sodaine, cried Arme, arme, which was some done: so; euey man toke him to his toles and weapans of defence. But it is wo:thy of memo:y, to se how the women of that Toluve did ply themselves with their weapans, making a great Massacre vpon our men, and murdered 500. of them in such speede and furious so;t as is wonderfull: wee needed not to haue feared forc men at all, had not the women bin our greatest ouerth:ow, at which time I my self was maister Gunner of the Admirals Gallie, yet chained greauously, and beaten naked with a Turkillish sword flailing, so; not shoting where they would haue me, and where I could not shote.

It is but a few yeeres since that in the citie of Constantinople, there happened a great plague, where there dyed in sixe moneths space, seuen hundred thousand persons, at which time Master Harbarne Ambassadour for the Turke company was there, and lost sundry of his seruants.

From Damalko we went into the land of prester John who is a Christian, and is called Christien de Sentour: that is, the Christian of the Serdell: against this Prester John, I went with the Turkes powder, and was then their maister Gunner in the field, the number of Turkillish souldiers sent thither, was five hundred thousand men who went thither by land, and pitched themselves in battaile ray at Saran, nere to the place where the sonne of Prester John keepeth his Court. There Prester John with his powder, slew of the Turkes to the number of sixtie thousand, onely by pollicy of drawe Bridges to let so;th water, made as secreete sleuols for that purpose, in which water so many Turkes perished. The next day following, the Turkes powder did incompage Prester Johns sonne and toke him prisoner, and sent him for a present to the great

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great Turkes court then being at Constantinople, but some after, Prester John him selfe, made an agreement betwene the great Turke and his sonne, that the one should not demaund tribute of the other, and so his sonne was released and sent home againe.

It is to be vnderstood that the great Turke paide tribute vnto Prester John, before the time of these warres, and the Turke did demaund a tribute of Prester Johns sonne, which had bene paide vnto him many yeeres before: whereupon Prester John, when his sonne was taken prisoner, gaue consent to forgiue the one tribute for the other, and thereby they were set at libertie the one from the other.

This Prester John of whom I spake before, is a king of great power, and keepeth a very bountifull Court, after the fashion of that countrie, and hath euey day to serue him at his table, 60. kinges, wearing leaden crownes on their heades: and these serue in the meate vnto Prester Johns table: and continually the first dish of meate set vpon his table is a dead mans skull, cleane picked and laide in blacke earth, putting him in minde that he is but earth and must dye. These 60. kinges are all his Elize Roges in severall places, and they haue their deputies to supply their roomes, and these kinges liue continually in Prester Johns Court, and goe no further then they may be still attendant vpon him without leaue from their Emperour Prester John.

In the court of Prester John, there is a wilde man, and another in the high strate at Constantinople, whose allowance is euey day a quarter of rawe mutton: and when any man dyeth for some notorious offence, then are they allowed euey day a quarter of mans flesh. These wilde men are chained fast to a post euey day, the one in Prester Johns court, and the other in the high strate of Constantinople, each of them hauing a spantell cast about their shoulders,

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Shoulders, and all ouer their bodies they haue wonderfull long haire, they are chained fast by the necke, and will speedely deuour any man that commeth in their reach.



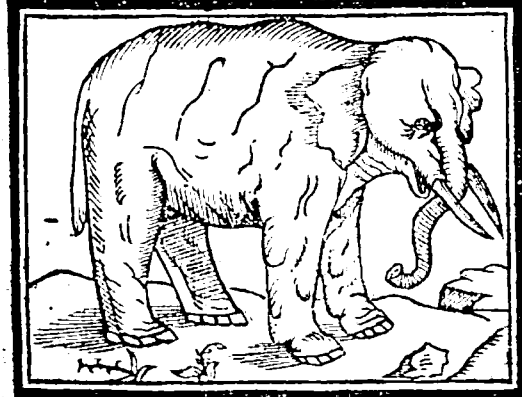
There is a beast in the court of D.ester John, called Arians, hauing foure heades, they are in shape like a wilde Cat, and are of the height of a Gallie Curre.

In his court also there is fowles called Pharoes fowles, whose feathers are verie beautifull to be woyme, these fowles are

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are as big as a Turkey, their flesh is verie sweet, and their feathers are of all manner of colours.

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



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3 hars

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I haue them in a place like a parke adioyning vnto Dyesther Johns Court, thre scoze and seuentene Unicornes and Diphants all aliue at one time, and they were so tame that I haue played with them as one would play with young Lambes.

These Diphants together with many other wilde and tame beastes will not drinke of any water vntill the Unicornes doe begin therof: these Unicornes when they come to drinke of any riuer, they put in their horne which is blackish and but short: and sozth of that water will rise a great stunn, and thereby cleanse all the filth and corruption that is within the same, and this horne grated to powder in teinke, is a present remedie against any maner of poyson.

When Dyesther John is serued at his table, there is no salt at all set on in any saltceller as in in other places, but a loafe of bread is cut crosse, and then two knives are layde a crosse vpon the loafe, and some salt put vpon the blades of the knives and no more.

Being thus in the lande of Dyesther John, I trauailed within eightene degrees of the Sunne, euerie degre being in distance thre scoze miles.

I was at the Red sea at the place where Moses made passage with his wand for the children of Israell, wherc I sawe a shippe called the graund Maria, she drawes but ri. fote water, and against this shippe thre scoze gallyes and shippes haue fought at one time and can not conquer her: and this is vnder the government of the great Turke.

This shippe is built almost flatte, and is of such burtthen, that she will carrie in her ten thousand fighting men, with their furniture.

I haue ben in the Courts of the thre great Patriarks, the first whercof is kept at Ierusalem, the seconde at the graun Caer, and the third is at Constantinople: these haue their Courtes in very stately sort, and attended on by none but priestes.

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When I was at Ierusalem I sawe the sepulcher wherc in it is sayd that Christ was buried: it is as it were in a vault, and hath seuen doores and seuen roes of marble steps or staires to go downe into the same, and then at the bottome of the staires there is a faire Chappell, with an Altar and a Lampe burning continually day and night before it, and the graue is full of white earth so white as chalke, and a tombe of the same earth made and layde vpon stone, whercon are sundrie letters written, but I could not read them. Vpon the left hand of which Chappell is a rocke of Stone, of a blackish coloure, being all of that Stone that we commonly call the load stone, which is of this nature: that it will be alwys vpon vnto it: this Stone is the principallest instrument which Harriners & Seaplers do vse for directing of their compasse at the sea.

The great Turke hath some profit comyng by the keeping of this monement, & hath therefore builded at his owne charges an hospital within Ierusalem, which his Generallies do keepe: and this Hospital is to receiue all Pilgrims and travellers to lodge in when so euer they come. And all that come to see the sepulcher do pay ten Crownes a peece, wherc of the Turke hath but one, and the rest goes to the Church, and so they may stay there so long as they list to lodge in that new hospital, and haue lodging, bread, victuals 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 turkey carpets, and because the sepulchre of Christ there is made sayde euery day, & none may say the Masse there, but a man that is a pure virgine: there was one that died when I was there, that daily sayd and sung the Masse before the sepulchre, and hee was an hundred and thirtie yeares of age before his death, and now another is in his roome, but whether the old man that dead is, or this which is now in place to sing and say the sayde Masse, were pure virgins I know not, but sure

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I dare not swere for them, because they are men, and flesh and blood as other are.

After that I had thus long travelled and spent my time in the wars and affaires of the great Turke, I was returned againe to Constantinople, where at my arrival a penny loafe of English sterling money, was worth a crowne of golde, such was the sicknesse, miserie, and dearth then upon the saide citie, and happie was hee that so could get bread to eate. Nevertheless, because I was a Christian, and for that the Turke had no cause presently to use me in my office of gunner-ship, I was there imprisoned, where I found two thousand Christians pinde by in stone walles lockt fast in yron chaynes, grievously pinched with extreme penury, and such as wished death rather then in such miserie to live: amongst these was I placed, and toke part with them accordingly: greiving at my hard hap that the warres had not ended me before I came thether.

Thus I remained there with the rest, garded and daily watched, that we could stirre no manner of way, there we were suffered to worke upon any manner of trade or occupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we did or made, we solde to the Turkes, and they gave us money for the same: and thus were we suffered to worke until it were time to goe and gather shewe, which is there tyled yearely of custome to be gathered: for the Turke hath great summes of money payde him for the sayde shewe, which is gathered and solde to his subiectes for a penny the pound, which pound is two pound and a halfe English: and this shewe they use only to coole their drinke in the summer season. And no man may sell any shewe until the Turke hath solde all his.

Thus living in this slavish life as is aforesaid, a long time, diverse of us conspired: & departed in our heads how we might procure our releasement: whereby I attempted with the consent of five hundred Christians, fellow slaves

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with my selfe, to breake a wall of fourtēne foote broad, made of earth, lime, and sand, which we greatly mofstened with strong briniger, so that the wall being made moyst therewith through the helpe of a spike of yron, five hundred of us had almost escaped out of prison: but looke what shall be, shall be, and what God will haue, shall come to passe and no more, as appeareth by us, for we hauing made meanes for our speedie flight, as we were isselwing forth, we were betraped by the barking of a bogge, which caused the Turkes to arise, and they taking us with the manner, stopped us from flying away and gave us in recompence of our paynes taking herein, leuen hundred blows a peece with a bulls pissell upon the naked skinne, viz. three hundred on the belly, and four hundred on the backe.

Thus lying still prisoner in the Turkes dungoons, it pleased God to send thether for the releasement of me and others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maister Harboine Ambassadour thether for the company of Spaine, who to the great honour of Englaunde did behaue himselfe wonderfull wisely, and was a speciall meanes for the releasement of me and sundry other English captiues, who were set at libertie sone after the death of the great Mecha: thus by the meanes of the sayd Maister Harboine I was set free from thraldome, and by him sent into Englaunde where I arrived on the first of May. 1589.

Whilst I was remaining prisoner in Turkey, and kept in such slavish manner as is before rehearsed, the great Turke had his sonne circumcised, which was the first time of his yemie members was taken off, at which time there was great triumphes and free libertie proclaimed for a hundred dayes space, that any Nobelman, gentleman, traveller, Christian or other, might freely (without being molested) come and see the triumphes there tyled, which were wonderfull: I my selfe was then constrained to make a burning peece of fire worke framed in forme like to the