

AN
EMBASSY
FROM THE
East-India Company
OF THE
UNITED PROVINCES,
TO THE
Grand Tartar Cham
EMPEROR OF
CHINA,

Deliver'd by Their Excellencies
PETER de GOYER and *JACOB de KEYZER*,

At His Imperial City of

PEKING.

WHEREIN

The Cities, Towns, Villages, Ports, Rivers, &c.

In their Passages from

CANTON to PEKING.

Are Ingeniously Describ'd,

By M^r *JOHN NIEUHOFF*, Steward to the
AMBASSADORS.

ALSO

An Epistle of Father *JOHN ADAMS* their Antagonist,
Concerning the Whole Negotiation.

With an APPENDIX of several REMARKS taken out of
Father *ATHANASINS KIRCHER*.

English'd, and set forth with their several Sculptures,

By *JOHN OGILBY* Esq;

His MAJESTIES *Cosmographer, Geographick Printer, and Master of the Revels* in the
KINGDOM of IRELAND.

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bod, unless it be first assaulted, and then it falls on with great fury, not only upon him that gave the Offence, but upon every thing that comes in its way, which he will never leave till he hath destroy'd it. When he has got a Man down, he kills him with a lick of his Tongue, which is both sharp and rough; afterwards tears off his Flesh to the very Bones; but his ordinary Food is thorny Bushes. He is always at enmity with the Elephant, to whom before he goes to give Battel, he whets his Horn against a Stone, and in Fight endeavors to wound him in the Belly, which he knows to be the weakest part. He makes a noise like the Grunting of Hogs. The Moors eat his Flesh; but it requires good Stomachs as well as Teeth to feed upon him. Some use the Horn as an Antidote or Preservative against Poyson.

There are great store of Tygers in the Province of *Chekiang*, mischievous and fierce, according to their Nature: But upon the Mountain *Kutien* are some that will not hurt a Man.

In several Parts of *China* also are Elephants bred, but the best are in the Provinces of *Nanking* and *Junnan*: I shall only add a few words concerning them, so much having been already said by several Authors. Their bigness is various: At *Constantinople* was one seen, which from the Eyes to the furthestmost part of the Back, was eleven Foot, and from the Eyes to the end of his Snout, eight Foot long. In height some are twelve, others thirteen and fourteen Foot. They are generally black; but some *Chinese* Writers affirm, that the King of *Nazaringa* had a white one. Their Skin is like Net-work, but so extraordinary hard, that it will turn the Edge of a Sword; yet it is harder upon the Back than the Belly. For the chewing of their Meat, they have four Teeth within, besides those that stick out before, which stand crooked in the Male, and down-right in the Female. The nether Jaw-bone is only mov'd in chewing, the upper always rests. In that part where the Nose is plac'd in other Creatures, the Elephant has a long Trunk or Snout, which reaches to the Ground, and has a Slit at the end: This is both pliable and slippery, which they make use of in stead of a Hand; for they can take up any thing with it either moist or dry, and put it into their Mouths.

Of the extraordinary Docility of this Beast there are several Examples to be found, both in the ancient and modern, as well *Chinese* as other Writers.

Pliny



Pliny writes, That they fling up Arms into the Air, and that they Fence with one another. Of the time and manner of Copulation there is great variety among Historians; Pliny says, That the Male and the Female at ten years old begin to couple: But Aristotle gives them a longer time, ascribing twenty to them both, the Female at twelve, and the Male at eight years. This Act of Generation they do most commonly in the Water, as being most easie for them both; and that in the most private Recesses they can find out, and but once in three years; neither doth the Male make use of one Female any more than once: After they have done Coupling they grow wild and furious, doing much hurt where they come. How long they go before they cast their Young is uncertain; some speak of a Year and six Months, others say three years, and some ten. They bring forth with great pain, leaning backward upon their hinder Legs. Some write, that they bring forth but one at a time, others four: As soon as it is brought forth it fees, goes, and sucks with the Mouth, and not with the Snout, till it is eight years old. They wage War with the Rhinoceros, Lion, Snake, Tyger, Ram, Hog, and Dragon, as also with some Colours, and with Fire.

In the Province of *Junnan*, the Hill *Nalo* is full of wild Tygers and Leopards; and so also is the Mountain *Xepao*. In the Province of *Quangsi*, they are much fiercer than Lions, and very hot and eager in the pursuit of Men, Women, and Children. But Nature has in some sort provided a means whereby to avoid the cruelty of this Beast; for it is always accompanied with a small Creature, which with continual Barking gives notice of its coming; upon which noise every living thing endeavors to get out of the way by flight, or otherwise. The People of *Bengala* stand in very great dread of this Beast. The Tyger and Rhinoceros (as Bontius writes) are great Friends to one another, conversing much together; the reason whereof the Islanders of *Japan* told me, was, as they suppos'd, and which is not improbable, because the Tyger is altogether a devourer of Flesh, which must of necessity occasion a weak Stomach; whereas the Rhinoceros feeds only upon Green: therefore the Tyger follows him for his Dungs sake, which he eats for a Cure when he is out of order, as the Dogs Grafs, and the Cats Nip or Cats-mint.

In the Province of *Quangsi* are very large Hogs, with great and strong Bristles

of

of a Foot and a half long, which by a particular and strange motion of the Body they know how to dart toward any one, and that not without great prejudice of those they hit.

In the Province of *Xenfi* is found the Creature call'd *Xee*, from whom proceeds the Musk; and which is very strange, if at any time it be carried out of the Kingdom of *Lu*, into the adjacent Kingdom of *Laos*, it dies immediately, as a Fish out of the Water.

In the Kingdom of *Gannan* is a certain Creature call'd *Tese*, which in shape comes very near to a Man, having long Arms: he is black and hairy upon the Body, swift of Foot, and laughs aloud like a Man, but is of so voracious a nature, that whomsoever he meets with he instantly devours.

In the Province of *Suehue* lies a Mountain call'd *Teyung*, upon which are Monkeys or Baboons, which for bigness and shape are very like a Man. These Creatures are more than ordinarily addicted to Vener'y, so that they often attempt to surprize Women on purpose to satisfy their bestial lust, and have their wills on them. The *Indians* call them *Wild Men*, and the *Indian Women* are in such fear of them, that they dare not come near those Woods where they frequent.

Of Fowl.

IN the Province of *Xantung* are Hens and fat Capons to be had very cheap; as also great abundance of all sorts of Fowl, as Pheasants, Partridges, &c.

In the Province of *Xenfi*, about *Mincheu*, are Cocks and Hens having Wood upon them in stead of Feathers.

In the Province of *Quantung* are an innumerable company of Ducks, which the Inhabitants take great delight to breed and increase. They never suffer the Duck to sit upon her Eggs, to hatch them, but put them into an Oven moderately heated, or else bury them in a Dunghil, and so hatch the young ones.

In the Province of *Huquang*, near to the City *Hanyang*, may be caught great store of Geese.

There are several other sorts of Fowls and Birds in other Provinces, whereof we have already made mention in the former part of the Description of *China*.

Of Fish.

IN the Province of *Xantung* the Pools and Rivers do so abound with Fish, that for the value of a Penny you may buy ten Pound weight thereof.

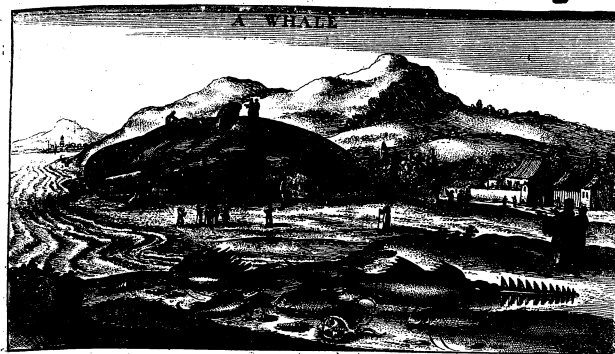
In the Province of *Kiangsi* is a great abundance of all manner of Fish, especially of Salmon, and the like.

In the Province of *Huquang* are caught many dainty Lampreys in the River *Lofeu*.

Near to the City *Kiagan* is the Pool *Mie*, in which is bred a sort of Fish as sweet as Honey.

In the Province of *Chekiang*, near the City *Cangboa*, lies the Mountain *Cienking*, upon which is a Pool, famous for the yellow or Gold-Fish that is in it: It is but a small Fish, about a Fingers length, with a forked Tail, but is in very great esteem at the choicest Tables, so that the Grandees have them commonly in their Fish-Ponds for their Pleasure and Use.

In



In the Province of *Honan*, near to the Chief City *Nanyang*, runs the River *Tan*, wherein at the beginning of Summer, but never else, are taken red Fish; before and after which time they are not to be had, in regard they hide themselves.

Near to the Island *Hainan* are caught Whales, after the same manner as the *Hollanders* and *English* take them in the North about *Greenland*, whereof they make Oyl which serves for several uses. Of these commonly some are a hundred and twenty Foot long; the Head whereof is reckon'd for a third part of the whole Body: Upon the top of the Snout are two round Holes, by which means they will take in a great quantity of Water, and spout it out again with a mighty force. In stead of Eyes they have two thin Skins which stick out, and are three Yards long, and a Foot and a half broad, and cover'd over with Stuff like unto Flocks. On each side of the Head it hath an Ear, which is much smaller without than within, whereby they are very quick of Hearing. It hath a very large Mouth, with Lips of so great a thickness, that they have sometimes five or six thousand weight of Fat upon them. The Tongue, which is about eighteen Foot long, and ten broad, rests upon eight hundred small and great Pegs or Teeth, which are all cover'd with Stuff like Horse-hair, to preserve the Tongue from being hurt as it lies upon them. They feed upon Fish, and the Froth and Scum of the Sea. There was once one taken that had forty Cod-Fishes in her Belly. The Tail is at the end almost twenty eight Foot broad, and two thick. The Male hath a Pizzle about fourteen Foot long. They bring forth but one at a time, and that in the Harvest, which stays by the Female under the protection of her Fins, till it is grown of a large size. It stands in great fear of the Sword-Fish, which is a mortal Enemy unto it, and who with its sharp Saw endeavors to rip open the tender Belly of this Prodigy of Nature. The manner of killing them has been sufficiently described by others, and therefore I shall forbear to trouble the Reader with a Relation thereof.