

Ruggewick  
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A

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 From the most authentic **AUTHORS**  
 In all **LANGUAGES.**  
 CONTAINING  
 Every Thing worthy **OBSERVATION**  
 I N T H E  
**FOUR QUARTERS of the GLOBE;**  
 And including the  
**LIVES and REMARKABLE EXPLOITS**  
 Of the most Eminent  
**ADMIRALS, CAPTAINS, and SEAMEN**  
 Of all **NATIONS.**

*Illustrated with Maps, Plans, and other Copper Plates.*

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## C H A P. XXII.

*The voyage of commodore Roggewein, with three ships,  
for the discovery of southern lands.*

**T**HIS gentleman had been a counsellor in the court of justice at Batavia for many years, and there acquired a considerable fortune. On his return from the East Indies, recollecting a promise made to his father on his death-bed; in the year 1721, he presented a memorial to the Dutch West India company, setting forth, that his father, at such a time, proposed discovering the southern continent and island, which proposal they had been pleased to accept, and that he, his son, was now ready to perform it. The company as readily received this memorial, and told Mr. Roggewein, that they would instantly give directions for equipping such a squadron, as he should think necessary for executing his design. This squadron consisted of three ships, namely, the Eagle, of 36 guns and 111 men, captain Job Coster, on board of which was the commodore; the Tienhoven, of 28 guns and 100 men, commanded by captain James Bowman; the African Galley of fourteen pieces of cannon and sixty men, captain Henry Rosenthal. This little squadron sailed from the Texel on the 21st of August in the same year, and continued their course to the south west, in order to gain the coast of Barbary; but were prevented by a great storm, which did them considerable damage. One of their vessels lost her main-top-sail and mizen-mast; and in the commodore, the main-sail-yard came down, and wounded several people upon deck.

After two days they began to recover from the dangers they had sustained, and made for the Canaries. When they found themselves in the latitude of 28 deg. the man at the mast head informed them of a sail which carried English colours. The commodore immediately made the signal for battle, their station being  
so

the greatest extravagancies; their whole time being now spent in swearing, drinking, and bawdy-houses. This, however, he attributes to the bad example of the meaner sort of people at Japara, who are as profligate and lewd, as it is possible to conceive.

The town is seated at the bottom of a mountain of a moderate height, is not very large, and inhabited chiefly by Javanese, Chinese, and Dutch. The king of Japara, generally speaking, resides at a place called Kattasura, 29 leagues up the country, where the Dutch have a strong fort and a good garrison, which serves not only to secure their conquests, but to guard the king. The monarch is a Mahometan, and according to the practice of most eastern princes is served by women, of whom, he takes as many as he pleases. His subjects are very faithful, and intirely devoted to his service. The chief persons in his court, when admitted to an audience, approach him creeping upon their knees. Such as commit the slightest fault are poinarded on the spot, with a small dagger, called a krid; and, as this is the only punishment they use, so the slightest, as well as the greatest faults, are capital. The natives are of a very brown complexion, tolerably well-shaped, and have long black hair, however, they cut it sometimes; their noses are flat, and their teeth bad, which is chiefly owing to the betele and fausel, which they are always chewing. The fausel is a sort of nut, not unlike, but something less than a nutmeg, without taste, and when chewed yields a red juice, which they use in painting chintz. The tree that bears this nut, is very strait, and its leaves like those of the cocoa-tree. The betele is a plant, with long leaves, resembling those of the citron; the fruit it bears grows in the form of a lizard's tail, about two fingers breadth, and eighteen inches long, of an aromatic flavour, and its smell extremely agreeable. Here are horned cattle, hogs, and an innumerable quantity of fowls. The only thing that is scarce amongst them is mutton; this is occasioned by the richness of the soil, on which the sheep will feed till they burst. They have buffaloes, stags,

stags, tygers, and the rhinoceros, which last they hunt, for the sake of its horn; of this they make vessels to drink out off, which are highly valued; from a notion they have, that they will instantly break, if poison be poured in them. As to fruit-trees, such as cocoas, figs, &c. they grow every where, and as they are green all the year, and constantly planted in rows along the river-sides, here are the most beautiful walks in the world. Their vines bear grapes seven times a year; but they are fit only for raisins, not for wine, because the climate ripens them too hastily. The sea, and rivers furnish them with a vast variety of the finest fish; so that, take it altogether, one may safely affirm of Java, that there is not under the canopy of heaven, an island more plentiful or more pleasant.

After refreshing themselves at Japara for about a month, they began to think of continuing their voyage to Batavia, in order to experience the favours which the governor, at the intercession of the chief of that island, had promised them. In sailing from Japara, they steered a west course for about 70 leagues, and then, with as fair a wind as they could wish, entered the road of Batavia, and anchored close by the ships that were lading for their voyage home; believing all their troubles were now at an end, and that they should accompany them to Holland. The commodore no sooner saw his ships safe at anchor, than he went with his captain into the shallop, intending to have gone to Batavia; but before they had got far from the ship, they saw the commandant rowing towards them, with the fischal on board, and some members of the council. These gentlemen bid the commodore go back, which he did, without any hesitation; and by that time both shallops were within hearing of the ships, the fischal proclaimed aloud the governor general's sentence of confiscation; soon after several hundred soldiers came on board, and took both the ships and their crews, into custody. The officers who were so fond of coming hither, began, now too late, to repent of their hasty return by the route of the East Indies. By this sentence  
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both ships were declared good prizes, the goods on board confiscated, and, to be brief, every thing was sold to the best bidder. The crew was divided and put on board the homeward-bound ships. But enough: we proceed to a more melancholy subject.

Some months before our author's arrival at Batavia, a plot was discovered for the entire subversion of the Dutch government. The fact was this. One Peter Erberfeld framed a design, in conjunction with a number of Javanese, and other Indian chiefs, to surprise the citadel and forts of this city; to massacre the governor, and all the counsellors, together with such as were in the service of the company, and put an end to the Dutch power in these parts. This conspiracy was discovered on the Eve of its execution, and Erberfeld, with the chief of his accomplices, were imprisoned, put to torture, and, on their own confession, sixteen of them, with three of their wives, received the following sentence: " That they should be carried to the place  
" before the citadel, where it is usual to execute criminals, and there delivered into the hands of the  
" hangman, to receive their respective punishments in  
" manner following. The two chief criminals, Peter  
" Erberfeld, burghers, born at Batavia, of a white  
" father and black mother, of the age of fifty-eight ;  
" and Catadia, a Javanese, shall be extended and  
" bound each of them on a cross. where they shall  
" each of them have his right hand cut off, and their  
" arms, legs, and breasts, pinched with red-hot pincers,  
" till pieces of flesh are torn away. They shall then  
" have their bellies ripped up from bottom to top,  
" and their hearts thrown in their faces; after which  
" their heads shall be cut off, and fixed upon a post;  
" and their bodies being torn in pieces, shall be exposed to the fowls of the air without the city, in  
" whatever place the government shall please to direct.  
" The four next to be bound upon a cross, and have  
" their respective right hands cut off, their arms,  
" thighs, and breasts pinched, their bellies ripped  
" open, and their hearts thrown in their faces; their  
" limbs

“ limbs exposed on a wheel in the usual places, there to  
 “ become a prey to birds. The other ten criminals  
 “ shall be each of them tied upon a cross on the scaf-  
 “ fold, and in case there be not room on the scaffold  
 “ itself, on a place near it, where they shall be broken  
 “ alive, without the coup de grace: they shall be after-  
 “ wards carried to the ordinary place of execution,  
 “ there be exposed on the wheel, guarded as long as  
 “ they shall live, and after they expire be left a prey to  
 “ the birds. The three women are each of them con-  
 “ demned to be tied to a stake, and there strangled till  
 “ they are dead. Their bodies shall be carried, like  
 “ the rest, to the common place of execution, and  
 “ there exposed on wheels, for the nourishment of the  
 “ birds. We likewise further condemn the said cri-  
 “ minals to the costs and expences of justice, renounc-  
 “ ing all further pretensions. Done and agreed in the  
 “ assembly of the lords the counsellors of justice.”  
 This sentence was executed as pronounced.

In process of time there were abundance of their  
 accomplices discovered, and one, after another, exe-  
 cuted. The house, in which Peter Erberfeld lived,  
 was pulled down and razed to the ground; and on that  
 side of it which faced the road, a column of infamy was  
 erected, on the chapter of which was placed a death's  
 head. There was also a table fixed on the said column,  
 on which was engraved in the Dutch, Portuguese,  
 Malayan, Javaneſe and Chinese languages, the fol-  
 lowing inscription: “ In this place heretofore stood the  
 “ house of that unworthy traitor Peter Erberfeld, on  
 “ which spot no other house shall stand for evermore.”

But to resume the thread of our author's narration,  
 and prosecute his voyage home from Batavia, as he  
 was in a manner forced to make it on board one of  
 the Dutch East India ships, when the commodore's  
 vessels were seized and condemned.

There was nothing material in our author's voyage  
 from Batavia to the Cape of Good Hope. And, tho'  
 we have before given a full and sufficient account of  
 the Dutch East India company's settlement here, and  
 alſo

also of the natives, our author gives us such a farther description of the strange birds and beasts which are to be met with in the vast forests of Africa, as must not be passed over in silence. The animals of this country, says he, are, many of them, as remarkable as in any places in the world. The lion is very common near the bay of Saldeney, about 18 leagues from the cape; and in hard winters will venture very near the habitations. It is thought this creature is called the king of beasts because he never eats a man alive, but first beats his breath out with his paws before he devours him. He roars and shakes his mane terribly before he attacks a man; and if he does not give these tokens of his rage, there is no danger in passing him. Tygers and leopards are here very common, and do a prodigious deal of mischief. It is probable these creatures would be still more numerous, were it not for a race of wild dogs that breed in these parts, and naturally hunt in packs, which makes them so bold, that they frequently run down and kill a lion. Tygers, leopards and wolves are their constant prey, and what is very wonderful, they will suffer a man to take them away when they are killed. Elephants are common here, and as large as any in the world, being fourteen and fifteen feet high, their teeth weighing from 16 to 120 lb. The rhinoceros is also often met with. He is less than the elephant, but stronger. His skin is of a vast thickness, and so hard that scarce any weapon will pierce it. He has a snout like a hog, on which grows a horn from twelve to twenty inches long. In the midst of summer, when the beasts are almost mad with thirst, they come down in multitudes to the river of Salt, of the elephant, and of St. John\*; where the males of one species mixing with the females of another, produce strange beasts, which look like a new species. The Hottentots often carry the skins of these monsters to the governor of the cape. Our author affirms, that he saw the skin

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\* *These are the names of the rivers they frequent.*

of one killed not long before: it was of the size of a calf about half a year old; had four eyes in the head which resembled those of a lion; the hair smooth, and of a dark grey colour; its tusk and fore-legs resembled those of a boar; but the hinder part of him was like a tyger.

The different kinds of birds in this country are almost infinite. The ostrich, which is looked upon to be the biggest of all, is commonly about 7 feet high. They make use of their wings, not to fly, but to assist them in running, and are prodigiously swift on foot, especially when they have the wind abaft, so that they hunt them with Spaniels: the common opinion, that this bird can digest iron, is absolutely false; they swallow it indeed; but only to bruise the meat in their stomachs, as other fowls do stones; nor do they leave their eggs uncovered on the sand, and take no care of their young, as is reported of them: for tho' they are naturally fearful, yet, if one of their chicks be missing, they become furious, and it is not safe to go near them. The feathers of the male are the most valuable. There are abundance of eagles about the cape, which are very bold, and tho' not exceeding large, are yet very strong. They frequently kill and eat the cattle as they return from work; and when they have not an opportunity of attacking an ox singly, they come in flocks of 60 or 100, and fall upon a beast as it feeds in the herd. There are also various other birds of prey, but not worth mentioning, because they are common elsewhere; however the following story is very remarkable, as it relates to a bird, unknown in this country, where the strangest things are not thought prodigies.

There was seen, says our author, a few years ago, upon the Table Mount, near the cape, a bird, whose body was bigger than that of a horse, covered with grey and black feathers; his beak and talons like those of an eagle. It sat upon, and hovered over that mountain for a long time, and the common people were persuaded that it was a griffin. It frequently carried off sheep and calves, and at length began to kill

COWS.