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Authentic and Genuine

JOURNAL

OF

Commodore ANSON'S

EXPEDITION,

CONTAINING

An exact Account of the several Transactions that happen'd; particularly of the Expeditions to MADEIRA, ST. JULIAN'S, ST. CATHARINE'S, and ST. JUAN FERDINANDEZ; the great Necessity the Seamen were under for Want of Provisions and of their being forced to live on Sea-Lions, Sea-Dogs, and other Creatures, and of their being obliged to drink their own Urine for Want of Water; of the terrible Storm they were in for forty Days together, in going round CAPE HORN; of their bombarding, taking, plundering, and burning of PATA; together with several other Particulars.

Published from the JOURNALS of several of the principal Officers who attended him throughout the whole Expedition.

The Whole embellished with Copper-Plates of all the remarkable Things that happen'd during the Voyage.

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and if a Majority condemn him, the Prisoner is executed on the Spot: The Captain first strikes him with a Truncheon he carries in his Hand, and the rest of the Judges fall upon him, and drub him to Death. Then wrapping up the Corpse in his Mantle it is carried some Distance from the Town and buried.

The Arms of the *Hottentots* are Lances, Bows and Arrows, and Darts. The Lances resemble a Half Pike, the Head or Spear whereof is poison'd. The Bows are made of Iron or Olive Wood, the String is of the Sinews or Guts of some Animal. The Beard of the Arrows are poison'd when they engage an Enemy. The Darts are about a Foot long, which they throw exceedingly true, scarce ever missing the Mark they aim at. They never fight on Horseback but always on Foot; but they have disciplin'd Bulls, or Oxen, taught to run upon the Enemy, and to toils and disorder them; which these Creatures will do with the utmost Fury on the Word of Command, not regarding the Weapons that are thrown at them. Every able-bodied Man is a Soldier, and keeps a Set of Arms (such as has been already mention'd) by him, and, on the Summons of his Prince, appears at the Rendezvous appointed, and every Man maintains himself while the Expedition lasts. When they march into the Field, every Man follows his particular Captain, the Chief of his Town. They observe little Order, nor take the Precaution to throw up Trenches to defend themselves. The several Companies advance to the Charge at the Command of their Chief; and when those in the Front have shot one Flight of Arrows, they retreat, and make room for those in the Rear, and, when these have discharged, the former advance, and so on, till they have shot away all their Arrows; then they have recourse to Stones, unless they are first broken and dispers'd by a Troop of Bulls; for the Chiefs on each Side remain on an Eminence in the Rear to observe the Fortune of the Day, and, when they observe their People hard press'd, give the Word of Command to their Corps de Reserve of Bulls, who break into the Body of the Enemy, and generally drive all before into Confusion; and that Side that preserves their Order best, on this furious Attack of Bulls,

Bulls, are sure to be victorious. The Skill of the General lies chiefly in managing his Bulls, who never charge each other, but spend their whole Rage upon the Men. They seldom fight but one Battle. The *Dutch* generally make up the Quarrel.

When a wild Beast is discovered in their Neighbourhood, they assemble themselves in small Parties, and endeavour to surround him. They first set up a great Cry, at which the frightful Animal endeavours to break thro' and escape them: If it prove to be a Rhinoceros, an Elk, or Elephant, they throw their Lances at him, Darts and Arrows being too weak to pierce thro' their thick Hides; if the Beast be not kill'd at the first Discharge they repeat the Attack, and load him with their Spears; and, as he runs with all his Rage at the Person who wounds him, those in his Rear follow him close, and ply him with their Spears, on whom he turns again, but is overpower'd by his numerous Enemies, who constantly return to the Charge, when his Back is towards them, and scarce ever fail of bringing the Creature down, before he has taken his Revenge on any of them. If one of them is hard press'd by the Brute, he is sure to be reliev'd by his Companions, who never quit the Field till the Beast is kill'd, or makes his Escape; tho' they sometimes dexterously avoid their Adversary, they immediately return to the Charge, subduing the fiercest either by Stratagem or Force. In the attacking a Lyon, a Leopard, or Tyger, their Darts and Arrows are of Service to them; and therefore they begin the Engagement at a greater Distance, than when they charge an Elephant or Rhinoceros; and the Creature has a Wood of Darts and Arrows upon his Back, before he can approach his Enemies; which makes him fret and rage and fly at them with the greatest Fury; but those he attacks, nimbly avoid his Paws, while others pursue him, and finish the Conquest with their Spears. Sometimes a Lion takes to his Heels, with abundance of poisoned Darts and Arrows in his Flesh; but, the Poison beginning to operate, he soon falls, and becomes a Prey to those he would have prey'd upon. The Elephant, the Rhinoceros and the Elk, are frequently taken in Traps and Pitfalls

falls, without any manner of Hazard. The Elephants are observ'd to go in great Companies to water, following in a File one after another, and usually take the same Road till they are disturb'd: The *Hottentots* therefore dig Pits in their Paths, about eight Foot deep, and four or five over, in which they fix sharp Stakes, pointed with Iron, and then cover the Pit with small Sticks and Turf, so as it is not discernable; and as those Animals usually keep in one Track, frequently one or other of them falls with his Fore-foot into the Pit, and the Stakes pierces his Body; the more he struggles the deeper the Weight of his monstrous Body fixes him on the Stake. When the rest of the Herd observe the Misfortune of their Companion, and find he can't disengage himself, they immediately abandon him; whereupon the *Hottentots*, who lie conceal'd in Expectation of the Success of their Stratagem, approach the wounded Beast, stab him with their Spears, and cut his largest Veins, so that he soon expires; whereupon they cut him to Pieces, and carrying the Flesh home feast upon it as long as it lasts. The *Hottentot* who kills any wild Beast singly has the highest Honours conferr'd upon him, and several Privileges which belong only to such intrepid Heroes. At his Return from the hazardous Attempt, the Men of the Village depute one of the Seniors to congratulate him on his Victory, and desire that he will honour them with his Presence; whereupon he follows the old Deputy to the Assembly, whom he finds, according to Custom, sitting upon their Heels in a Circle; and a Mat of Distinction being plac'd for him in the Centre, he sits down upon it. After this, the old Deputy pisses plentifully upon him, which the Hero rubs in with the greatest Eagerness, having first scratch'd the Grease off his Skin with his Nails, the Deputy all the while pronouncing some Words unintelligible to any but themselves. This being over they light a Pipe of Tobacco, which they smook, and hand one to another, till there remains nothing but Ashes in the Pipe; and these the old Deputy strews over the gallant Man, who rubs them in as they fall upon him, not suffering the least Dust to be lost. Hereupon his Neighbours having severally congratulated him on his Advancement to this high Honour

Country, whose Teeth weigh from sixty to one hundred and twenty Pounds; and their Strength is scarce to be conceived. They are from twelve to fifteen Feet in Height, and some say a great deal more. The Female is much less than the Male; and has it Breasts or Dugs between the fore Legs. Their usual Food is Grats, Herbs, and Roots, and the tender Twigs of Trees and Shrubs; and if they meet with a Corn Field, they will devour a great deal of the Grain; they pull up every Thing with their Trunk, which serves as a Hand to feed themselves; and with this they suck up Water, and empty it into their Mouths. The Rhinoceros is to be met with at the *Cape*. This Animal is something less than the Elephant, but of equal, if not greater Strength; at least the Elephant runs away and avoids him, whenever he discovers him. His Skin resembles that of the Elephant, being without Hair, and of a dark Ash-colour, inclining to black, and so hard that scarce any Weapon can pierce it. He has a Snout like a Hog, upon which there grows a solid Horn, of a Dark-grey Colour, that turns upwards a little, being from one Foot to two Foot in Length; with this, when he is enrag'd, he rends up the Earth, and tosses it over his Head, as he does the Stones that lie in his Way, throwing them to a great Distance behind him. On his Forehead he has another Convex Horn, almost of the Shape and Size of the Crown of a Hat. He has the Sense of smelling very quick; and when he has the Scent of his Prey in the Wind, he forces his Way to it, in a direct Line, thro' the thickest Woods, tearing up every Thing that obstructs his Passage, grunting as he goes like a Hog; but is discovered the soonest by his throwing of Stones, and breaking his Way thro' the Thickets. He seldom falls upon a Man, unless he has a red Coat on; and then he attacks him with all his Fury, flinging him over his Head with such a Force, that he is kill'd or render'd insensible with the Fall; and then, with his rough prickly Tongue, licks the Flesh off his Bones. His Eyes are very small, and he only looks right forward, not easily turning his Neck; and tho' he is pretty swift of Foot, a Traveller, by a
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sudden Turn, may avoid him, for then he loses Sight of the Man. The Rhinoceros does not feed much on Grass, but delights more in Broom, Shrubs, or Thistles. The Flesh of this Beast is frequently eaten; and his Horns, his Skin, and his Blood are used in Medicines. The Horn will not endure the Touch of Poison: They make Cups of it at the *Cape*, tipped with Gold and Silver; and if Wine be poured into one of them, it will immediately rise and bubble up, as if it boil'd; and if there be Poison in it, the Cup will split: If Poison be put into one of these Cups alone, it immediately flies in Pieces. They carefully preserve the very Chippings of the Horn, being esteem'd a great Remedy in Convulsions, fainting Fits, and other Diseases. The Blood is also dry'd, and preserv'd by their Physicians, being esteem'd of great Service in Obstructions.

There are wild Dogs, not unlike *English* Hounds, that hunt in Packs near the *Cape*, without a Huntsman, or any Thing to direct them but their Appetites; chasing almost every Thing that falls in their Way; even Lions and Tygers are sometimes attack'd by them, and overpower'd by their Numbers. They will hurt no Man, and Travellers are very glad to see them, being assured there are no wild Beasts near the Place where they are. Both the *Dutch* and the *Hottentots* follow these Dogs when they see them chasing their Prey; which, when they have run down, they will suffer any Man to take it from them, without snarling. The Flesh the *Hottentots* get by this Means they eat, and the *Dutch* salt it up, and give it to their Slaves. But these Dogs worry and kill greater Numbers of their Sheep, than any other wild Animals, if the Shepherds happen to be out of the Way.

There are two Sorts of Wolves at the *Cape*; the one like the *European* Wolf, and the other, the Tyger-Wolf. This last is supposed to be got by a Tyger and a Wolf: His Head is broad like a Bull-Dog's, his Nose and Eyes large, his Hair shagged, and spotted like a Tyger's: He has large Claws, which he draws in like a Cat, and a short Tail; he keeps all Day in his Den, and preys in the Night, when he keeps such a dismal