



JOHANNES FRYER M.D.
Societatis Regiæ Lond. Socius.

Mid-Orange

A
NEW ACCOUNT
OF
East-India and Persia,
IN
EIGHT LETTERS.
BEING
Nine Years Travels,

Begun 1672. And Finished 1681.

Containing Observations made of the *Moral, Natural, and Artificial* Estate of Those Countries: Namely, Of their Government, Religion, Laws, Customs, Of the Soil, Climates, Seasons, Health, Diseases. Of the Animals, Vegetables, Minerals, Jewels. Of their Housing, Cloathing, Manufactures, Trades, Commodities. And of the Coins, Weights, and Measures, used in the Principal Places of Trade in those Parts.

By JOHN FRYER, M. D. *Cantabrig.*
And Fellow of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

Illustrated with Maps, Figures, and Useful Tables.

L O N D O N:

Printed by R. R. for R. CHISWELL, at the *Rose and Crown*
in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*. MDCXC VIII.

Letter V.

Here are two other Orders that are more reclude, resembling *Santa Monica*, and *Santa Clara*. And thus I have run through all the Degrees that live in *Jesfa*, with what Brevity and Faithfulness may be expected in so transient an Account.

C H A P. VII.

Gives us a Sight of the Palace, and Rarities there; our Entertainment by the French Artisans in the Emperor's Service; the Diversions of the Place, and its Product; and the Close of the Year, with its Seasons.

HAVING been taken up thus long among the *Armenians*, we in our Return cannot but take notice of the famous Walk between the two Cities of *Jesfa* and *Ispahan*: It is planted with two Rows of Sycamores (which is the tall Maple, not the Sycamore of *Alkair*) upwards of two Miles: It is called the *Chaurbaug*, from four Gardens belonging to the Palace, opposite one to another; these take up all the Ground on the side of the Bridge towards *Ispahan*; on the other side, Seats of Noblemen and Great Ministers of State grace the Way up to the biggest of all, the Emperor's, which is at the End of this Stately Place, over-looking with a pleasant Prospect all the rest up to the Palace-Gates, which are directly answering the Majestick ones of this Garden, they fronting one the other.

Over the Portal are curiously painted Men and Women in *European* Dresses: From the Entrance up to the Mountains, Marble Steps make the Ascent easy, which Nature had framed difficult enough otherwise; up which the Limpid Streams are forced to send their Currents through five several Channels laid with Marble, two at the feet of the Sycamores, which railed in two Foot-pads, and ran immediately to the River; the other three emptied themselves into the Tanks, to which two Stone Causeways gave an Even Walk to Foot-men, by the middle Channel parting them, and at every Tank ascended or descended by Marble Grades, while the Horse-way was sloped for their Passage, entering on one side, and coming back the other; and every Two hundred Paces, Bathing-places of a large Circumference receive great plenty of Water from the three Channels in the middle, into which the Marble Steps go down to the Bottom, which is paved with a cleanly Floor of the same Polished Stones; and this is begun from the beginning of the *Chaurbaug*, whence it descends to the River, and thence rises the same height to the End of the Garden: In the Garden its self, variety of Green Trees flourishing, sweet Odors smelling, clear Fountains and Rivers flowing, charm all the Senses; nor is there less surprizal at the ravishing Sight of the delicate Summer-houses by each Pond's side, built with all the Advantages for Recreation and Delight.

In

The great Garden at the end of the *Chaurbaug*.

In a Wilderness beneath this, are kept the Bears, Leopards, and Lions, belonging to the Emperor: And from this place up to the Palace Gate, are seen every Evening all the Gentry of the City Riding to and fro with Hawks on their Fists; managing their Steeds, making of Matches for Shooting, Hunting, Courting, or Hawking; showing their Gallantry in Apparel and Retinue, as well as disposition to Sport; being as much frequented as our *Hide Park*, and for as little purpose, only to see and be seen, though the whole pretence be to take the Air.

Near these Ponds, or *Tanks*, are Coffee-Houses, which furnish them when they dismount, with Coho, Tea, or Sherbets; while they sit in State, and smook Tobacco with their Attendance about them.

The adjacent Houses, Orchards, and Gardens, may be truly said to be in the Virge of the Court, many of them serving only for the Emperor to sit with his Seraglio, while the other Apartments are aired; though the great *Draun*, or Council be always held in that place respecting the *Midsn*, or *Pomarium*, in the heart of the City; and the rest are but given during Pleasure, to the chief Officers at Court: Wherefore reckoning all these Dwellings as Appendices (which indeed they are) few Monarchs will appear to have a larger extent to hold their Court in, it being above a Third part of the whole City; which being granted, it will not be hard to imagine so Great and Absolute a Potentate should be Courted by all the World, and from all the parts of the Earth the wonderful Works of the Creation should be brought as Honorary Presents; nor can it be supposed that so wide and spacious a Palace should not afford room for more than the ancient Ark, though not freight with Pairs of all the Species, yet more of several.

Whence it is, that here is to be seen more readily, and with less hazard, the Offspring of most Soils, except Human, and the Creatures of every Nation, rather than the Women of this Court, which are at less liberty than the Beasts, being Cooped up in their Sties, more strictly than these are kept in their Dens; many of the fiercest and untamest of these being allowed only to breath in the open Air as Nature Ordained them: But not to tire my self, nor you with Particulars, I shall only mention what were strange to me.

The first whereof was the Rhinoceros, who is a Cruel Beast, of a large Size, there coming from his Nose an Horn a Cubit long, (Brown towards the Bottom, Whiter near the Point) and Six Inches Diameter, whence the derivation of his Name from *Pis*, *Nasus*, a Nose, and *Kizak*, *Cornu*, an Horn; between this Animal and the Elephant, is a mortal strife, for which Nature seems to have armed it on purpose; it being a Four-footed Beast, with Three Partings of the Hoof, built on thick strong Thighs, but short, considering the great bulk of its Body which presses them; it is Tall enough to reach the Bowels of its Antagonist with its Horn, with which it Gores him to Death; nor has the given him less firm Bones to the Trunk, if by chance it should be crushed by the Elephant, defending its very Hide with a Coat of Mail: wherefore before on the Neck and Shoulders, and behind in the Quarters, the Skin lies in Folds, like Fish Scales, over one another; the Face bears much of an

Chap. VII.
Wild Beasts for the Emperor's Divertison.

The Rhinoceros, not the Indian Oangr.

Letter V. an Hogs Countenance, unless the upper Lip, which resemble a Cows, and the lower, the form of a Whales; the Mouth discovers a misshap'd Tongue, set about with Two rows of Teeth; it is of the same Mouse Colour, and Tailed as an Elephant is, and Feeds of the same Fodder, and is kept facing Two mighty, but lean Elephants.

Whether the Rhinoceros be the Unicorn, I suspend my belief, since I have seen an Horn turned with Furrows and Ridges from the Basis to the Point, and Tapering like that of our King's Arms: But what *Petrus Angelius* relates concerning the *Onager*, or *Indian Ass*, can have no congruity with this, unless in respect of the Virtues; for though his Verses are most Elegant in his *5. lib. Cynaget.*, yet the description is very wide:—

— Quos India pascit Onagros,
Jam primum niveo corpus candore teguntur,
Infelix Assyrio circum caput omne colore
Cæruleis oculis, unoque in fronte superbi
Cornu, &c.

His words in Prose are these; 'The Wild Asses of *India* are as big, or bigger than Horses, whose Heads are of a Purple die, their Eyes Blew, the rest of their Body White; on their Foreheads they have an Horn a Cubit in length, whose lower part for Two Hands breadth is White, and the Top, which is sharp, inclining to a bright Red, but the Middle part is blood Red; of these they make Cups, out of which whosoever Drinks, neither Cramp nor Falling Sickness seizes them; nor has any manner of Poison any force, if that immediately before or after taking of the same, either Water, Wine, or other Liquid thing be taken out of these Cups.

That this Opinion is taken up upon the account of the Rhinoceros his Horn, I can certainly verify, and that great Prices are offered for those that are inadulterate; which they in *India* pretend to try by the Liquors presently fermenting in them; but notwithstanding that Experiment they are often deceived by false Horns made into drinking Cups; thus much is true of the Rhinoceros, but the other part of it holds not Water; they come from *Bengala*, and are esteemed terrible and indomitable Creatures: And these must be (or none) what this Author calls Asses, there being no other Beasts in these Parts with but one Horn; and I am afraid he is mistaken as to the *African Ass* also, some Writers having called *Africa India*, which might have been urged in his excuse, whose Skin I having formerly admired when in *India*, you will easily be convinced it is no such Creature, it having never an Horn; Two Live ones were sent hither from the *Abassin* Emperor, as an Expression of Respect to this Court; which, with other valuable Rarities brought by his Ambassadors, were lately graciously received.

They are as large as a Mule, but for the exact Symmetry of the Lineaments, *Zexii* his Pencil would but faintly shadow over the lively Portraiture of their Skins, the ground whereof was of a light Ash Colour, over which along the Back strait black Streaks in Rows at length reached to the Tail; the Shoulders, Flanks, and Haunches had

The *Abassin*
Ass mistaken
for the *Sabian*
Wild Ass.

had the same waving towards the extremity of their several Members; but that which was the oddest was on the Forehead, they had so many Geometrical Figures, like the *Trapezium*, or *Square*, in which the opposite sides are parallel one with another, so distinctly painted, as at last to fill up a black spot of a Diamond cut in the very Centre of the Face.

What Family to mix this Kind with, I am at a loss, unless they be a-kin to the *Onager*, or *Wild Ass*, mentioned by *Xenophon* in the Expedition of the Lesser *Cyrus*; the same we read in *Pliny* in his *8. Lib.* and *4th Chap.* where he ascribes them to *Phrygia* and *Lycæonia*; but the Words of the before-recited Author have it thus; 'The *Onager* is a *Wild Ass*, excelling at pleasure the swiftest Courser; whose Flesh differs not much from Stags Flesh, were it not something tenderer; *Arabia*, says he, abounds with Flocks of them. Now nothing can be Tamer than these before us, and therefore unlikely to be the Wild ones of *Xenophon* in *Arabia*, but are most assuredly the Breed of *Africa*; however *Petrus Angelius Bargaus* comes pretty near the Mark in this, though not the other; however he is mistaken in the Place, as well as the Race of both:

At sonitu ingenti patrem quatit ungula campum
Cornua, venantem quoties fugiére; suisque
Temporibus stant longa Aures, tum Corpora Cervos
Exsuperant; nec Lana nitet non albo colore,
Mixta Nigro, ceu cum Nubes densantur opaca
Et totum eripiunt oculis cæcunq; diemq;
Nigraque per medios decurrit lænia lumbos
Linda, quam clunes strallim cernuntur adimos,
Ut:que distinguens niveo sua tergora duclit.

The Horn Hoof with mighty sound,
As oft as Hunted shakes the ground;
Upon their Temples stand long Ears,
Bodies bigger than Stags are theirs;
A Woolly Hair, of colour White,
Outshines the mixture of black Night.
Along the Back, and down the Loins,
A List of Black the White disjoins;
The same accompanies the Haunch,
Distinguishing the Flanks from Paunch.

Hence we were carried to the Ducking Ponds, where Swam Outlandish, as well as Native Wild Fowl; and thence to the Aviaries, where Nature presents not only divers Species, but she has plaid the Wanton, even in diversifying those of the same Kind, either adding or diminishing, as she was provided with Matter; some Birds having more Feet, Wings, or Bills, than belongs to the wonted Frame of the same sort; others again, are deficient in the Parts usually bestowed on the Individuals of the same Race, some exceeding, and others wanting in Stature. But these being accounted monstrous and out of the Road, I shall forsake them to follow a Couple of long striding