

BERMUNEZ

694.c.90.7
Hakluytus Posthumus

or

Purchas His Pilgrimes

Contayning a History of the World
in Sea Voyages and Lande Travells
by Englishmen and others

By

SAMUEL PURCHAS, B.D.

VOLUME VII

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A Letter of the Patriarch Don John Bermudez, to the King our Lord.



Most High and Mightie King, your Highnesse said to me few daies ago, that you would be glad to know the truth, of what happened to a Captaine and people, which the King your Grand-father which is in Glorie, gave unto me for the succour of the Emperour of Ethiopia Onadinguel,* called Presbyter John, for to avoid the errours which some persons doe write of this; insomuch that even in the Name they erre, naming him Don Paul, he being Don Christopher his Brother. And others doe write, and say some things which did not passe in truth, neither did they see them. Therefore I, that saw it all, will tell you in briefe in this small writing all that passed. The Lord keepe your person, multiply your young age, and prosper your Royall estate, Amen.

* So he calleth
Atani Tingil
before men-
tioned.

§. I.

Don John Bermudez elected Patriarch of the Presbyter, and sent to Rome: His returne into Ethiopia: Arrivall at Maczua; The death of the Negus, entertainment of him and Christopher of Gama, with the Portugall Forces by the Queene Regent.



A Faithfull and good Christian, called Onadinguell, being Emperour in the Kingdome of Ethiopia, (vulgarly called Presbyter John) and the Patriarch of that Countrey, by name Abuna Marcos, being at the point of death in the yeere of our Redemption, 1535. The said Emperour said to the Patriarch, that he requested him, that according to their custome, he before his death would institute me for his Successour, and Patriarch of that Countrey. And the said Patriarch did so, ordering me first with all the sacred Orders. The which I accepted with such condition, that it should bee confirmed by the chiefe Bishop of Rome, successour of Saint Peter, to whom wee all were to give obedience. The said Emperour answered me, that he was well contented: and moreover he desired me, that for my selfe, and for him, and for all his Kingdomes I should goe to Rome, to give the obedience to the holy Father: and from thence should come to Portugall, to conclude an Embassage, that he had sent hither by a man of that Countrey, called Tegazavo, in whose company came the Father Francis Alvarez. After many troubles passed in the Journey, I came to Rome, the Pope Paul the third governing then in the Apostolike Sea: the which received me with great clemencie and favour, and confirmed all things as I brought them, and at my request he ratified it all againe, and commanded me to sit in the Chaire of Alexandria, and that I should entitle my selfe Patriarch and Bishop of the Sea.

From Rome I departed towards Portugall, where I came, the King your Grand-father of glorious Memorie,

Zaga Zab
Frier men-
tioned in
Alvarez.

hanging about their necks. Amongst other Rebels which arose in Armes against Sazinosius, was not one farre from Fremona, which had beene an Anchoret, or Hermite in a Wildernesse twentie yeares, not putting off yet his ambition of a Scepter. He had theeves to associate him, of which there are plentie. But I have almost beene robbed of discretion, and seeme to have robbed my Readers patience to wilder, and while him so long in this miserable Abassia.

An Armenian his report of Sussinus, the Emperour of the Abaxins, by us vulgarly called Prester John, who came from the said Emperours Court twelve daies since.

First, from Dealeque to the Kings Court, called Dombia, (a very great Citie) is five and twentie daies journey by Carravan; heere goeth from thence yearely ten Carravans, whereof eight are great. The Commodities they carrie, are all kind of Indian cloathing, and likewise of our English Commodities, (Broad-cloath, Kerseys, Lead, Tinne; likewise, Velvets, Damaskes, Sattens, Taffitaes, and all other sorts of Silke Stuffles.) Their measure is about halfe a yard; Cloath, which is worth in Moha foure Rials of eight, is there worth eight Rials. The price of Kerseys, is halfe the price of Broad-cloath: The Colours they most desire, are Reds, Greens, Violets, Murreys, and other light Colours: Yellowes in no esteeme; nor Blacks.

Velvets of China of all sorts are worth ten Rials of eight the halfe yard. Velvets of Italy are much more worth: but not so profitable to the Merchants, because they are much deerer. Sattens of Florence are worth ten Rials; Damaskes of the better sort, worth eight or ten Rials. Taffitaes three Rials; all colours well sold, excepting Yellowes and Blackes.

Civet, great quantitie is to be had, the price is three Wakias, (which is neere upon foure ounces English,) for five Rials of eight. Elephants teeth, the Bahar, worth

thirtie Rials. The Bahar is three hundred and sixtie Rottollies of Moha. Waxe one hundred Rottollies, worth one Riall of eight. Gold the Rottolly, worth sixtie Rials, the Rottolly is neere upon sixteene ounces and a halfe. Lead and Tinne in great request. Tinne worth the Rottolly, one Rial, Lead much more worth, because the Turk wil not suffer any to be carried into his Country.

Bezar-stones many are to be had, and little worth: here are many Beasts with one horne in their fore-head like a Unicorne; which horne, they say, is good against poyson. There are of them which weigh eight pound, some seven, foure, and three pound: the greatest and fairest, worth some foure Rials the piece, and those of a lesser sort worth lesse: among the Turkes and Moores in Arabia, every pound is worth one Riall of eight.

From Grancairo there goeth in August a great Carravan, and likewise another in November. The Commodities they carrie from thence, are Broad-cloaths, Kerseyes, Velvets, Sattens, Damaskes, and all sorts of Silkes. From Cayro to Dombia is fiftie daies travell by Carravan.

First, he sits on a gilt Bed-sted like those of China, and there commeth great troops of men daily to salute him; some daies two thousand, some daies more, some daies lesse; but Friday being their day of Fast, there commeth a farre greater quantitie.

[Peregrinations, and