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 and DIVISION, CLIMATE, SOIL and PRODUCE; their LAKES, RIVERS, MOUNTAINS,
 CITIES, principal TOWNS, HARBOURS, BUILDINGS, &c. and the gradual Alterations that
 from Time to Time have happened in each:

ALSO THE

MANNERS and CUSTOMS

OF THE

Several INHABITANTS; their RELIGION and GOVERNMENT, ARTS and SCIENCES,
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 mical Observations: But likewise with Variety of Plans, and Prospects of Coasts, Harbours, and Cities; be-
 sides CUTS representing Antiquities, Animals, Vegetables, the Persons and Habits of the People, and
 other Curiosities: Selected from the most Authentic Travellers, Foreign as well as English.

Published by His MAJESTY'S Authority.

V O L . II.

L O N D O N :

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Sierra
Leona.

Wolves) but a Mile from home. Then there are a like, often serves the Purpose ^b. In Honour of this Trumpery, every Family has now and then a Feast, to which they invite one another ^c.

1728.
Labat.

SECT. VI.

Supplemental ACCOUNT of Sierra Leona:
From Labat.

Country of Sierra Leona. Rivers on the Coast. Bay of France. River Mitomba. Soil and Air. Mangroves described. Burré Town: How built. Beds and Arms of the Natives. The Inhabitants: Their Wives: Religion. Their Fetishes. Soil and Fertility. Multitudes of Apes: Their Cunning. Commodities and Trade. The Gold and Slave-Commerce.

THE River of Sierra Leona is one of the most considerable in all Africa, the Mouth being reckoned four Leagues broad. Two famous Capes bound the Country of the same Name: That to the North is called Cape de la Vega; that to the South, Cape Tagrin, Ledo, or Sierra Leona. These Capes form a spacious Bay, in which the River of Sierra Leona discharges itself; so called, because it comes from the Sierra Leona, or Sierra de los Leones, that is, the Mountains of Lions, as the Portuguese Words import.

THE Country round this Bay is one of the best in all Africa; the Soil being extremely fertile, and well watered with many Rivers, up which a great Trade might be carried, if they were navigable. The Chief of these are, the Rivers of Stones, Karkais, Pichel, Palmas, Pan-gue, Kamgrance, Kasse, Karokannes, Kapak, and Tambasine, most of which come from the Mountains, called Machemala, that cross the Country from North to South, and join that of Sierra Leona. The River of Sierra Leona goes also by the Names of Tagrin and Mitomba, which it is proper to observe, to prevent making three Rivers of one. What has given Occasion to this Variety of Names, is, that the Entry of the River is embarrassed on the North Side by Sands, and on the South by Islands, which form three Channels. Those to the North and South are deep and clear, and may be safely passed at all Times: The middle one is dangerous, on account of Rocks and Shoals. Large Barks and Vessels of good Burthen may sail up the River eighty Leagues, there being all along from six to sixteen Fathoms.

Joseph's Entertainment.

THIS Negro, by the Advantage of Trade, has in some Measure reliev'd the Wants of his own Family, or Towns: They are tolerably stocked with Guinea-Hens, Fish and Venison; while the Country, fifty Miles off, he says, have little to feed on but Honey and Manjoko Root. He received the English in an European Dress, (Gown, Slippers, Cap, &c.) and sent his Canoas out to shew them the Diversion of chasing the Manatees. They brought one ashore in two Hours Time, of which they had stewed, roast, and boiled Meat, with a clean Table-Cloth, Knives and Forks; besides Variety of Wines and strong Beer for their Entertainment. The Flesh of this Creature was white, and not fishy, but very tough, and seasoned high (as are all their Dishes) with Ochre, Malaguetta, and Bell-Pepper.

HIS Kinswomen came into the Room after Dinner, and to them other Neighbours, saluting those of their own Colour, one by one, by making a Bend of their right Elbow, so that the Hand comes nigh the Mouth; the other, to whom she addresses, is in the same Posture: Then mixing their Thumbs and middle Fingers together, they snap them gently off, and retreat with a small Quaker-like Obeisance, decently, and without Hurry or Laugh. They shewed likewise much good Nature towards one another, in dividing two or three Biscuits, and half a Pint of Citron-Water (brought by the English) into twenty Parts, rather than any one should miss a Taste. In Conclusion, Signor Joseph saw them to the Boat, and took Leave with the same Complaisance he had treated them.

THE Religion of the People here, if it may be called such, consists in their Veneration to Gregries: Every one keeps in his House, in his Canoa, or about his Person, something that he highly reverences, and that he imagines can and does defend him from Misfortune; in the Manner that the Country-Folks in England regard Charms, but with more Fear. The Matter of these Gregries are very various, either a cleaved Piece of Wood, a Bundle of peculiar little Sticks, or Bones; a Monkey's Skull, or the

^a Or, Gregories, as Johnson calls them; and Grigoris, the French Authors. tend the Choice of Materials for Relicks somewhat farther than the Papists. More on this Head will be given from the same Author, when we come to treat of Guinea.

^b These Negros seem to ex-
^c See Atkins's Voyage to Guinea, &c. p. 53.

^d In the French, Libs.

Natural
History.Colour and
Skin.

His Thighs and Legs are unshapely, and very thick^a; his Feet about a Foot Diameter, and so covered with a rough, thick Skin, that only the Ends of his Nails appear. The *African* Elephant is almost black, like those of *Asia*. His Skin is rough, wrinkled, hard, with some long, stiff, dark Hairs interspersed. His Tail long, like that of the Ox; naked, except a few Hairs at the End: This he whisks as if to keep off the Flies, although such Insects cannot affect a Skin which is Bullet-Proof. It is a vulgar Error to think he has no Joints in his Feet, and that, consequently, he can neither rise nor lie down: But he has another Defect less known, which is, that he has a greater Difficulty of turning from the Right to the Left, than the contrary: The Negroes make good Use of this Advantage, when they attack him in open Field^b.

ALTHOUGH the *Asiatics* have found the Means of training up their Elephants to War and other Uses, yet the Negroes have never attempted to form these Creatures to any Employments of this Kind.

It is said, by some, that the Female carries her Young eighteen Months, by others thirty-six; but this is uncertain, the tame Elephants never breeding. Others assert the Elephant sees and walks as soon as born, and that the Females suckle their Young seven or eight Years: But all these Assertions are merely conjectural, and founded on no Authority.

Food and
Stomach.

THE Elephant is at no great Loss for Food: He lives on Grass like the Ox, and for Want of this eats the Boughs and Leaves of Trees, Reeds, Sword-Grass, and other Herbs that grow in the Marshes, besides all Sorts of Fruit, Grain, and Pulse. Hunger obliges them sometimes to eat Earth and even Stones, but it is remarked that this Diet soon kills them. They suffer Want patiently, and can live eight or ten Days without Sustenance: They are naturally, otherwise, great Eaters, as the Negroes experience, when they get into their *Lûgans*, or Plantations; a single Elephant consuming more in one Day, than thirty Men would do in eight, without reckoning the Damage they do with their Feet. For this Reason the Negroes take great Pains to keep them from their Rice-Fields, &c. either by watching them in the Day or lighting Fires in the Night, which frighten them away. When they light on Tobacco-Grounds they get drunk, f

and play a thousand Tricks: Sometimes they intoxicate themselves so as to fall asleep, and then the Negroes revenge themselves on their Carcases for the Mischief they have done. Their Drink is Water, which they take Care to stir with their Feet, till it is muddy, before they drink it^c.

Natural
History.

THE Elephant has many Foes: The chief of these is the Rhinoceros. *Labat* says, none of these are to be found in *Africa*^d. However, these Elephants of the North of *Africa* have Enemies enough, Negroes, Lions, Tygers, Serpents, to oblige them to Vigilance and Precaution. The most formidable of these is the Tyger, who commonly seizes the Elephant by the Trunk, and either choaks him or tears him in Pieces. The *French Sanaga-Company* yearly import five hundred Quintals, or about fifty thousand Pound Weight, of Teeth.

THE Elephants range in Drovers of forty, fifty, and sixty together. They are frequently to be met with in the Woods, but never meddle with any, if not attacked^e.

JOBSON observes, that Elephants are numerous all over the Country near the *Gambra*, their Marks being visible every where. This Author has seen sixteen very large ones in a Company, besides young ones that suckled, and some not full-grown. The Reeds, or Sedges, where they generally feed, though they are a Foot or two higher than the tallest Man, yet half the Body of the Elephant is seen above them.

THEIR Teeth, contrary to the common Representations, lie in the upper Jaw: With these they pull down Trees. Hence comes so many cracked and broken Teeth; for if the Tree be too strong, the Tooth must give Way. The Author denies that they shed their Teeth, as some have affirmed. He says, from Experience, that the Flesh is well-tasted and good. He asserts, that they are as fearful as Deer, and will run very swiftly, as he found in one large Elephant; who, though shot three Times, yet escaped and was after found dead in the Woods^f.

LE MAIRE says, that the Elephant is never to be attacked where there is Room for him to turn; for, if so, he will hurl the Pursuer down with his Trunk, and trample him to Death. The Female bears often three young ones at a Time, and feeds them with Herbs and Leaves, putting them into their Mouths with her Trunk.

^a Four Legs like Columns, and short Feet; those before broader and rounder, and those behind longer and narrower; each shod with four Hoofs. See Philosophical Transactions, Abridgment, vol. 5. p. 83. ^b *Labat, Afrique Occidentale*, p. 275, & seqq. ^c *Ibid.* p. 281, & seqq. ^d *Kolben*, in his Account of the Cape of Good Hope, says, they are to be found there. *Barbot*, in his Description of Guinea, p. 28, says, that there are Rhinoceroses near the *Sanaga*. ^e *Labat, ubi supra*, vol. 3. p. 286. ^f *Jobson's Golden Trade*, p. 139, & seqq.

by Authors: Musk, or Civet-Bag: The Musk, a
how gotten from the Animal: Their Food:
Those of Guinea the best. Tame Cattle: Horses:
Oxen: Sheep: Tame Goats.

AMONGST the Sereres Negros, near the same Cape, there is found an Animal (well known in Brazil) called, by the Natives, Bomba, and, by the Europeans, the Capivard^f. There are some as big as a Hogrel of a Year old. The Hair is whitish, short, thin, and stiff. His Paws, or Feet, are armed with sharp Nails, by which he climbs the Trees like a Bear, and descending, sits on his Breech and eats the Fruit. His Head resembles much that of a Bear^g. He has small, lively Eyes, with a large Throat, and sharp Teeth. He is like the Otter, amphibious, and can live in Water as well as on Land. The Negros give him no Quarter, and eat his Flesh, which is a great Dainty^h.

THE Antelope is found in great Herds both on the Sanaga and Gambia. This Beast, in its Head, Tail, and Hair, resembles the Camel. His Body is like the Hind; his Cry like that of the Goat. In his Thighs and Legs, which are shorter before than behind, he resembles the Hare^a; so that they run-up an Ascent easier than they can run down; and if the Ground be uneven, they cannot run fast. They prick up their Ears on hearing any Noise. Their Horns are straight till within an Inch of the Extremity, where they turn-in. They are gentle and easily tamed. They have a black Circle round the Eye like the Camel.

STAGS and Hinds are, also, numerous here. These Animals come in vast Flocks from the Countries lying North of the Sanaga, for the Sake of Pasture, which is more abundant on the South-Side of the River. The Negros take Care to make them pay for their Subsistence: For this Purpose they wait till the Grass is dry, which is commonly in March or April. The Inhabitants of the Isles of Bifessa and Ivory Isle assemble, and set Fire to these Plains, beginning at the broadest Part of the Isle. The Fire spreading obliges the Game to retire before it to the End of the Isle, where they are hemmed-in by the Negros and the River, on whose Banks other Negros watch to kill those that swim across; so that they destroy great Numbers. After this, they divide the Spoil, salt and dry the Flesh, and sell the Skins to the French or English^b.

JOBSON says, that, by the Report of the Natives on the Gambia, there is a Beast in the Country of the Size and Colour of a Fallow-Deer, with a Horn about the Length of a Man's Arm^c; which, the Author observes, is not like the Unicorn as he is painted: Nor would he probably have heard of such a Beast, if he had not enquired after it. However, le Maire informs us, that there are Rhinoceros's here, but he never saw any^d.

NEAR Cape de Verde is a remarkable Animal, having a Body like a Dog; the Hoofs of a Deer, but larger; a Snout like a Mole. His Food is Pismires^e.

JOBSON observes, that Baboons and Monkeys are innumerable along the Gambia, keeping in Companies, three or four thousand together, each Sort by themselves. They keep-up a Kind of Commonwealth. They travel in Ranks, under certain Leaders of the bigger Sort. The Females carry their Young under their Bellies, if only one; but, if two, they bear one on their Back. In the Rear, some of the larger Sort march as a Guard. They are very bold; and as our Author failed-up the River, would get-up into the Trees, shaking the Boughs, and chattering at them, as if much offended. In the Night they could hear many Voices of them together, and presently one great Voice exalting itself, Silence would insue. Jobson has also seen, in the desert Places frequented by these Animals, a Sort of Arbours, made with Trees interwoven, to keep them from the Sun. The Negros eat their Fleshⁱ.

LE MAIRE informs us, that there are several Sorts of Apes and Monkeys on the Sanaga and along this Coast; as the Guenous, with long Tails, and Magots, which have none at all; but the Author saw none of these latter. Of the former, there are Store every where; and no fewer than three Kinds: Two are of a small Make, and do but little Mischief. Of these some are called the Bewailers, from a Cry like little Children.

Of the other Sort, some are as large as the Magots. They have not only Hands and Feet, but something in their Gesture resembling very nearly the human. The Negros are fully convinced these Apes can speak if they please, but that they will not, lest they should be obliged to work^k. They are good for nothing but to bite

^a See the Figure, Plate VIII.
^c Jobson's Golden Trade, p. 146.
Description of Guinea, p. 28.
like a Hare, and Body like a Swine: The Hair thick, of an Ash Colour, and no Tail. Froger's Voyage au M. r du Sud, p. 127.

^b Labat's Afrique Occidentale, vol. 2. p. 42, and vol. 3. p. 80, & seqq.
^d Le Maire's Voyage to the Canary Isles, &c. p. 70.
^e See before, p. 33. c. Also Plate XXVIII. Fig. 1.
^f Barbot's
^g His Head
^h Labat, ubi supra, vol. 4. p. 168.
ⁱ Jobson's Golden Coast, p. 143.

^k So says Barbot also.