

A
L E T T E R

From Mr. *Samuel White*, to his Brother in
L O N D O N,

Dated in *S I A M*, Sept. 20. 1686.

Giving a full Account of the *Late Rebellion* made by the People of *Macasser*, Inhabiting in that Country, which ended with the Death of all the Rebels, who were totally Destroy'd by the Kings Forces, Assisted by some *Europeans*, of several Nations, amongst whom Capt. *Henry Udall*, and some others of our Countrymen most Unhappily lost their Lives.

IN the past Month, when his Majesty with the whole Court were retired to the *Summer Pallace* of the *Levo*; the *Macassers* (who you know are Seated below the *Portuguese Camp*) Conspired to have burst the City, Seized and Plundered the Pallace, Destroyed the King, and turned all *Topley-Turvy*, had not the faint-heartedness of some few of the Conspirators given vent to the Plot, about six hours before the designed time of their beginning to put it in Execution, which discovery, how late soever, came yet time enough to prevent the attempt for that time, the Vigilance of the Guards, rendering it unfeazable: The King on notice hereof dispatcht the Lord *Phaulkon* (who is Lord President of his Privy-Councell) from Court, to the Pallace of *Siew*, to examine and take cognizance of the matter, on whose arrival there, a Party to the number of about Two hundred surrender'd themselves to the Kings Mercy, and were sent up to *Levo*, where some of them were notwithstanding found worthy of Death: another Party to the number of fifty headed by a designing and daring fellow, whom they had made their Cap-
tain,

tain, pretended to be wholly ignorant of the Plot and with all earnestness, sued for Liberty to depart the Kingdom, in a Vessel of their own which was in a readiness to transport them: To which, his Lordship, willing to have the Country rid of such dangerous Male-Contents, by any way rather than by effusion of Blood, consented, and gave them a Tarr to pass the Forrs at *Banoke*; but after their Departure from hence, being Informed the said Captain was not so Innocent of the Plot as he had pretended, and Jelous that such a Crew, Headed by such a Despatchado, might do much Mischief by Lurking in the Bay, and Surprizing the small Vessels that daily pass to and fro, to the great prejudice of the Port; He instantly dispatch'd an Express to the Chief Governour of the Garrison, one *Monsieur Forbin*, a *Frenchman*, and great Favourite of his Lordships, to En-order him, tho' not to stop the Vessel, (yet if possible to be done without Bloodshed) to detain the said *Massters*, Captain, Prisoner in the Fort. To this End *Forbin*, on the Landing of four or five of them, to shew their pass before he would permit the opening of the Chain, sent them on Board again, with an Invitation for their said Captain to come on Shore, who accordingly did, accompany'd with six others, and (whether through Ignorance or Oversight) were all of them permitted to Enter the Fort, Armed with Greats, where *Forbin* treated them very Civilly with Tea, &c. for the space of half an hour; but in the conclusion the *Massters* offering to be gone, the *French* Governour, now too late, told the Captain he must Surrender his Arms, which he replyed, *he would not live with his Life*; whereupon *Forbin* Commanding a *Bravo Pistado*, that stood by, to Disarm him, he immediately drew his Crease and rip't up the poor *Siammer*, after whose Example the rest began their Muck, and fought very desperately untill they were all kill'd upon the place, by the Sentries and the help of Two Englishmen, at that time Prisoners in the Fort, having first slain several *Siammers*, and wounded a Young *French* Captain.

This first Bruis being over, the Governour sent to Summon the rest of the *Massters* on Shore, having before-hand Ordered to be drawn up two Companies of *Siam* and *Portuguese* Soldiers, (Headed by Captain *Martin*, and Captain *Flores*, lately come in hither from *Bombay*) to receive them, whilist himself secured the Fort with a Third Company; but they refusing to Obey his Summons, he sent to set Fire of their Vessel, which was accordingly done, and the *Massters* then seeing themselves forc'd to the shoar, and thinking to distract the Souldiers from too strict an observance of them, immediately on their Landing set fire to several Houses, which gave them opportunity to rally their Forces, then amounting to Forty three Persons armed only with Creases in open face of the Fort, where they undauntedly confronted the whole strength of the Garrison, which Captain *Flores* not able to bear, too rashly advanced against such desperate Fellows, and with six or seven *Portuguese* that follow'd him, met their Deaths on the point of their Enemies Creases, having first laid dead an equal number of the *Massters*, *Martin* also very narrowly escap'd with Life, being deserted by the unexperienced and Raw Souldiers under him, the Fort in the mean time not being able to ply their great Guns to do any Execution for fear of killing their own men; In this

this skirmish fell also about Twenty six *Siammers*, all of them Creast: However at length the *Massters* fled, and being afterwards pursued and hunted from place to place, in Seven or Eight days time they were all taken, and their fifty Heads staked upon Poles at *Banoke*, and it's not amiss their escape to Sea was so opportunely prevented, for three days after this happen'd, arriv'd some Englishmen from *Mergin*, who knew nothing of this matter, yet affirmed, That in the Office of this Barr, they saw Forty Saylor of *Malley* Vessels plying to *Wardward*, whereas not one had gone out from hence, and therefore it's supposed they had been Cruising on the Coast, to expect this said Captain with an Account of their Success on shoar, and that then the appointed time being expired, and the time of English Shipping to arrive at hand doubtful of a Discovery of the Plot a-shoar, they were returning homewards. A Third Party of these *Massters* to the number of One Hundred or thereabouts, with their Prince at the Head of them, stood upon their Defence in their own Camp, to whom the King after his return hither from *Levo*, was pleas'd to make a tender of Pardon, provided they would lay down their Arms, Tho' perhaps expecting by this his unlookt for Clemency, to arrive at the discovery of all such ill-affect'd *Siammers*, as possibly might have more than a finger in this Conspiracy, but this gracious offer of his Majesty had not the design'd effect; for about the 10th. of this month, the said Prince attended by the whole Crew of desperate Votaries, all arm'd with Creases and Lances, went to the Pallace Gate: whence he sent word to his Majesty, That in the sense of his late Error, and reliance on his Royal word, he was come to ask his Majesties Pardon, and promise a peaceable demeanour for the future; and to that end desired admittance to throw himself at his Majesties Feet, To which he was answered, That the Posture he then was in, did not correspond with his pretences, but if he would first surrender his Arms, and Command his Attendants to do the like, his Majesty would readily grant him liberty to come into his Presence, and confirm the Pardon he had already on that condition offered them; whereupon the Prince pre-emptorily replyed, he would never be guilty of so base a Submission as required the parting with their Arms; adding that he was not unsensible of an approaching great Storm: *But*, says he, *tell the King, I am like a Great Tree, well Rooted, and shall be able to endure any ordinary Shock; but if the Storm comes so Violently on that I cannot longer stand it, he may be Assured any fall will not be without the rage of much under wood; and since I cannot be suffered to speak to the King with my Arms, if he has any further business with me, he knows where to find me at my own House.*

All Repentment of these daring Expressions was seemingly smother'd, and it was thought most convenient to lull him into Security, by suffering him for that time to depart without taking any further notice of it; tho' all possible Preparations were with great privacy made to reduce him by Force. And accordingly the Lord *Phaulkon* in Person, accompanied with Sixty *Europeans*, having first in the Night blockt up the small River, and so surrounded the *Massters* Camp with about two Hundred of the Kings Gallies and Boats, that they could not possibly fly, on Tuesday the Fourteenth Instant at break of day gave Order for the Onset, intending first to have fired down all the Houses before

before them, that so they might force these Skulking Enemies to an open Fight, who otherwise would have the opportunity of Murdering all that came near them, and yet keep themselves unseen. But alas! the Rashness of some of the Chief *Europeans* hurried them on at once, to the breach of Orders and their own Deaths, and that without any damage to the Enemy; For Captain *Coster*, and by his Example and Command, several others Landed before their time on a small Spot of a dry point, where the *Massassers*, e're they could well look about them, rushing out of the Houses dispatch one Mr. *Abney*, newly arriv'd on the *Herbert*, and forced the rest to take the Water again, in which hasty Retreat, Captain *Coster* with the weight of his own Armour and Arms lost his Life in the Water, the rest with much danger and difficulty recovering their Boats. This sad Prologue to the yet sadder Tragedy, a man would have thought warning enough for them to have proceeded afterwards with more discretion; but being for the most part of them men of more Resolution than Conduct, and unacquainted with the way of fighting with such an Enemy, and yet Emulous of shewing themselves every man more Valiant than his Neighbour: About three hours afterwards having by burning that part of the Camp, and hot plying of the Guns out of the Gallies, put the Enemy to a Retreat two Miles higher, up the small River, Captain *Henry Udall* (who in Complement to his Lordship accompanied him to be only a Spectator) had not the Patience to continue any longer so; but, (notwithstanding all his Lordships earnest dissuasions from it) would needs leap ashore, where he had not been long, with several other *English* in his Company, e're a parcell of *Massassers*, in disguise of *Siammers*, by hawling a small Boat along the Shoal-water, got so near them, undiscerned to be Enemies, as to reach them with their Launces, at which time it unluckily fell to Captain *Udall's* Lot to lose his Life, the rest very difficultly escaping by taking the Water, tho' those *Massassers* escap'd not the small-shot from the Boats: Nor was his Lordship exempted from as Eminent Danger as any man that came off with Life; For Captain *Udall's* resolute going ashore had drawn him thither also, being loth to leave the Company of one he so much respected; but the Enemies Lances, (at which you know they are most expert) forced his Retreat, being glad for some time to hang on the off-side of his Boats Stern for shelter. You will not, (tho' many others I believe will) wonder the *Europeans* small-shot could not prevent their doing so much mischief with only Lances and Creases, when you call to mind their desperateness, who are a sort of People that only value their Lives by the mischief they can do at their Deaths; and regard no more to run up to the very Muzzle of a Blunderbuss, than an *Englishman* would to hold his hand against a Boys Pop-Gun. There fell also four *Frenchmen*, among whom *Monsieur de Roon* was one: So that now at length other mens harder fates begun to make the rest more Circumspect; and continuing to burn and lay all Levell before them, about Ten in the Forenoon arriv'd them a Recruit of *Siammers*, (the whole number employed by Land and Water being no less than Seven or Eight Thousand) with which they began to pick them off very briskly, I mean as fast as they could

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spy them Skulking in the Bambo's, Thickets, and other Bushes, till at length the Prince himself was slain by the Captain of his Lordships Life-Guard, and about three a Clock the Fight ended; the *Siammers* afterwards only continuing to hem-in that place, to prevent the escape of any that might remain alive and attempt it. There was no Quarter given to a *Massassers* in this days Fight, save only the Princes Son, a Boy of about Twelve Years, who after his Fathers fall came on undauntedly with his Lance presented at his Lordship; but drawing within reach, and perceiving his Lordship ready in the like posture to entertain him with his Lance, his Heart failed him, so that he cast away his Weapons, and threw himself at his Lordships Feet, who received him with all Courtesy, and brought him unbound to his Majesty. The next day what Men or Women remained (for many of the latter were burnt in their Houses with their Children) were taken Prisoners by the *Siammers*. And thus ends the Story of the *Massassers* with their Lives: But whether the Conspiracy, wherein they were concerned, will end with them, is very much to be doubted.

Licensed July 28. 1687.
Ro. L'Esrange.

FINIS.

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