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V O L. IV.

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For JOHN WALTHOE, over-against the *Royal-Exchange*, in *Cornhill*; THO. WOTTON, at the *Queen's Head* and *Three Daggers* over-against *St. Dunstan's Church*, in *Fleet-street*; SAMUEL BIRT, in *Ave-Mary-Lane*, *Ludgate-street*; DANIEL BROWNE, at the *Black-Swan*, without *Temple-Bar*; THOMAS OSBORN, in *Gray's Inn*; JOHN SHUCKBURGH, at the *Sun*, next the *Inner-Temple-Gate*, in *Fleet-street*; and HENRY LINTOT, at the *Cross-Keys*, against *St. Dunstan's Church*, in *Fleet-street*, MDCCXXXII.

# An Account of the Cape of Good Hope

and the Hottentotes, the Natives of that Country, by William Ten Rhyne, Native of Deventry, Physician in Ordinary, and a Member of the Council of Justice, to the Dutch East-India Company; with some Animadversions upon the same, by Henry Secreta a Zevorzit. Translated from the Latin Original, printed at Schaffhausen in Switzerland.

TEN  
RHYNE.

**T**HE ninth of *October* 1673. we fail'd with S. S. W. wind, steering our course S. E. we discover'd land at thirty two degrees, it being a very serene day at sea,

but foggy (as usually it is) as we approached the shoar; and sounding the depth we found a hundred and twenty fathoms water. But whilst we were flattering our selves with hopes of coming to the so long expected shoar, the wind turning against us, toss'd us up and down, in the sea, till the thirteenth of the same month; then sailing with a S. E. wind, we came to an anchor in a sandy bottom, in the bay of *Saldanba*, extending it self in form of a half-moon, and of a quite different position than what it is represented in the maps, either by the carelessness of the engraver, or ignorance of the author, having no other congruity with their description, except that the bay had a pointed kind of a promontory at both ends; but the islands are neither so numerous nor of the same situation (differing four points in the compass) as they represent them, and appear under various colours. Being very

Their arrival at the cape of Good Hope.

The bay of Saldanba.

desirous to refresh our selves after so long a fatigue, the captain and I and the factor, went ashore on this point of *Africa*, accompany'd only by some few seamen that managed our boat; casting about my eyes with a great deal of eagerness in this country, unknown to us before, I saw a vast ridge of mountains, which encloses the bay with many hanging rocks, which being well stored with divers sorts of plants, seem'd to imitate the *Hanging Gardens*, or *Semiramis*, or *Alcinoe*, and appeared to me like the *Elysian* fields, tho' in a desert: I gather'd a good quantity of these plants, in order to present them to our *Herbalists*. I was surpriz'd to see in this desert such a vast

quantity of aloes, which, I believe, could amount to no less than some thousand pounds weight. Night made us return to our crazy ship, and as we were returning from the land, we observed the sea near the rocky shoar almost covered with haddocks; being extremely satisfied we had escaped this without the least danger, as having in full remembrance what happen'd to eight *Dutch-men* sometime before, who being employ'd in the pursuit of some sea-horses, were cut to pieces by the natives.

Being got safe aboard, we set sail the next morning again, with a fair N. W. wind, and passing by the *Dassen* islands, defended only by a small garrison; it has got its name from the great number of sea-rabbits taken there, and produces some pasture for sheep.

The fourteenth of *October* towards evening, we came to an anchor, with a moderate gale from the south to west, and twenty three fathoms water; the next day, viz. the fifteenth, the wind at N. W. we repass'd in sight of the *Rabbit* isle about eight leagues distant from our port on the *Cape of Good Hope*, eight from the *Dassen*, and about fifteen from the bay of *Saldanba*, according to the mensuration of the maps, having a high rock to be seen at a great distance; there several exil'd prisoners were employ'd in burning of muscle-shells, to make lime for the island. This isle produces abundance of *Chamelons*, lesser than those of the *Indies*, as also all sorts of insects, serpents, and spiders as big as a man's fist.

About four a clock in the afternoon we discovered the table bay, having lost abundance of men in this voyage; and being invited the next day to dine with the governor, as we were rowing towards the sandy *African* shoar we were entangled among a vast

These are described by Mr. Rockford in his history of the American vast islands.

vaſt quantity of *Sea Alkaner*, commonly called *Brembaſtin* (a plant of that bignefs that one ſingle one would have filled our boat) a certain mark to thoſe that approach the *African* coaſt near the *Cape of Good Hope*, as are likewiſe a certain kind of ſmall whitish ſea-gulls. Beſides the many other reaſons we had to be extremely delighted with the ſight of land, after ſo tedious a voyage, the novelty of a place ſo little known among the ancients, did not a little raiſe our curioſity to make the beſt inquiry we could of this country. All what they ſay material upon this head tends only to this; that a certain emperor coming from the *Mountains of the Moon* to the *Cape of Good Hope*, erected an empire here; which being afterwards divided into four kingdoms were

See *Hornius orbis politicus*. D. The ancients had but a very obſcure knowledge of *Africa*, called by them *Libya*.

known by the name of *Meaopatu*.

TEN

I will not pretend to trace the whole foundation of their history, having confined my ſelf to the narrow limits of a journal; whether theſe nations owe their original to *Cham* the ſon of *Noah*, or to certain *Arabians* (the poſterity of *Shem*) that paſſ'd into *Africk*, or whether ſome of the natives of *Africk*, grown numerous by degrees, and not able to ſubſiſt in ſuch numbers in a barren ſoil, ſent certain colonies to this uttermoſt point of *Africk*; to trace, I ſay, theſe matters, being beyond our ſcope, we will not content our ſelves with giving you an account of their manner of living and commerce, after we have told you ſomething of its ſituation and conſtitution.

C H A P. I.

Of the ſituation of the Cape of Good Hope.

THE promontory, known by the name of the *Cape of Good Hope*, is ſituated at the ſouthernmoſt point of *Africk*. Its longitude, in reſpect of the ſtreights of *Gibraltar*, is 39 degrees 25 minutes; and its latitude, in reſpect to the *Hesperian Promontory*, or *Gourdaſu* (known by the name of *Cape Verde*) 34 deg. 30 min.

It was firſt diſcover'd by *Vaſco de Gama*, 1491. (by the encouragement of *John*, then king of *Portugal*) who met there nothing but cragg'd mountains, as high as *Olympus* it ſelf, ſcarce producing any thing for the ſuſtenance of human life: Thoſe unfortunate wretches, who are obliged to inhabit here, having ſcarce any thing to feed upon, but what is produced with a great deal of pains, in a barren ſoil and very ill climate; affording ſcarce any thing but brambles and briars, wherewith the mountains are cover'd on all ſides. As there are few plains, ſo there grows but little corn; the only plains of note are, that known by the name of *Bachaley Plain* (or the field of battle) being about three leagues in compaſs, and the other called, by the *Dutch*, *Buffe Yacht*, or the *Bufflers Plain*, ſeated upon the aſcent of a high mountain; whether beyond that the country be plain or mountainous is not known hitherto.

And is a corrupt *Malayan* word.

The mountain that lies cloſe by our part is call'd the *Table Mount*, from its flatneſs on the top, and ſerves for a guide to the mountaineers in thoſe parts. Its height is reckon'd to be about five leagues. Certain it is (as I found by my own experience) that its aſcent is very ſteep, for it coſt me a hearty ſweat before we came to the top of it; being obliged to paſs in my way up vaſt multitudes of various ſhrubs and plants,

and among the reſt ſaw a whole foreſt of the laky *Falmitre* (the roots whereof grew croſſwiſe, like a net-work) extending it ſelf in two branches to the foot of the mountain; ſtor'd with prodigious numbers of ba-boons. In our return (towards evening) we were ſadly peſter'd, or rather frighted, with a kind of fiery meteor, which ſeem'd to move in the air like large ſparks of fire; I endeavour'd to catch them with my hands, but finding them not palpable, I was convinced that they were ſulphurous meteors engender'd in the fenns, not unlike the ſulphurous excrement we ſee in the night-time paſs thro' the air.

The *Table Mount*.

The next adjacent mountain is call'd the *Lyons Mount*, from the ſhape which reſembles that beaſt, not from the roaring of the winds (like a lyon) as *Mercator* would have it, who affirms, that this cape is ſubject to ſuch frequent and terrible tempeſts, that nobody, unleſs in caſe of the higheſt neceſſity, dares to caſt anchor her, whereas it is now ſufficiently known, that this cape ſerves the *European* ſhips for a conſtant place of reſreſhment, and a ſafe port; tho' it muſt be own'd, that this coaſt is much infeſted by ſtorms.

The *Lyons Mount*.

Divers rivers are, as it were, the product of theſe mountains. The firſt is called the *Butter* river. (2.) The *Kaffernal's* river. (3.) The *Mountain* river. (4.) The *Endleſs* river; it raiſes in the mountains, but its extent is unknown hitherto. (5.) The *Broad* river, extremely pleaſant, by reaſon of the many delightful trees that ſtand upon its banks, but very ſhallow. (6.) The *Fenny* river; all which have very clear, ſweet and wholeſome waters, their ſprings being purify'd by the heat of the climate.

Their rivers.

TEN RHYNE. The 1st of *November* we took a view of the company's garden, which furnishes the ships that come to anchor here, with all sorts of refreshments, where we saw whole walks and orchards of *lemons, citrons* and *orange* trees; parted by *rosemary* and *laurel* hedges, not inferior in height to most of our *European* trees. A pleasant brook having its rise at the foot of the adjacent mountain, waters this garden, and slides its current among the green hedges.

The East-India company's garden.

From hence casting my eyes towards the adjacent mountains, I could plainly discern (tho' at a considerable distance) the original cause of the south-east wind, which put me in mind of the mountains, where *Æolus* is said to have his seat, and detain the winds in prison. For it is observable, that whenever thick clouds appear on and about the tops of the adjacent high mountains, they are the fore-runners of severe storms, which are more or less strong, according to the extent, thickness, or position of the clouds; of this I have taken frequent notice in the clouds, that us'd to arise upon the table-mount, which were always follow'd by heavy and long tempests.

Thus, it is certain, that tho' the stars never vary in their course, they don't communicate the same quality to the air; it having been observ'd, that at the same time there blows quite another wind ashoar, as there does at sea; nay, what is more, two or three different winds blow at once in different parts of the bay, all which must be attributed to the different position of the mountains, in respect to the several parts of the bay. Nothing is more common here, than to find a certain mountain near the table-mountain (called from thence the *Devil's Mount*) to be all over stormy, whilst the circumjacent country is blest with fair and calm weather.

The Devil's Mount.

Thence it is that I am verily persuaded, that in case our sailors would make more exact observations for the future, of the different effects of the various situation of places, our navigation might be founded upon more certain rules than now it is; which makes them have recourse to unknown causes, and the instability of the tides in certain places. For what other reasons can be alledged for these constant winds (called *Monsoons*) but the high mountains which are constantly cover'd with snow, it being certain, that these winds continue to blow whilst the snows are melting; that there being no other cause to be alledged in these places where the wind blows always from one corner, or changes but once a year, than the distinction of the mountains, or the annual concourse of the sun. It must however be confess'd, that such spacious fens,

the receptacles of vapours, may not a little contribute towards these winds.

Therefore our seamen would do well to observe the different constitutions and situations of places, with the same care as they do commonly the tides, or return and reflux of the sea, which vary according to the situations of the bays, havens, or capes; of this variation I had sufficient experience in our passage through the channel, betwixt the port of *St. Malo*, on the *French* shoar; and the isle of *Wight*, occasioned by a ridge of rocks near cape *La Hague*, on the coast of *Normandy*. But the discussion of this spinous question concerning these *Monsoons*, or certain variations of the winds, may not only depend (as well near home as in distinct places) from the sun's approach to, or removal from these parts, but also from the different seasons of the year.

But it is a much greater secret to know the true origin of the continual south-east winds, which blowing almost without intermission in divers parts of the world, and especially on the *Cape of Good Hope*; we may address our selves to *Oedipus* himself, to find out the different situations of the mountains in reference to the plains, which occasions these winds.

If \* *Descartes*, when he set up for a reformer of philosophy, had been convinced of these experiments, he would not have been put to the trouble to have his whole recourse to the moon; for, as the effects of nature don't depend on general causes, so it is with the tides, or flux and reflux of the seas, which cannot be truly explained in all its circumstances, by the hypothesis of *Descartes*; there being a vast difference betwixt these tides on the coast of *Genoa*, and on the coast of *Tuscany*; in the *Baltick Sea*, they are very different from both; and are most violent in the gulph of *Jaqueta*, in the channel near *Nova Francia*, or *New France*, and in the streights of *Babama* in the bay of *Mexico*. The same might be said of his hypothesis of the magnetick virtue, were it not that our purpose is confined to the description of the rivers, mountains, and other things worth our observation in this part of *Africk*.

\* Princ. Philos. Part 4. Sect. 49. And Isaac Vossius de motu marium.

About five leagues beyond our fort, is the *Salt-Bay*, having got its name from the vast quantity of salt that is digg'd near it, and therefore may rather be reckon'd of the kind of *stone-salt* than of *sea-salt*; it does not always keep the same figure; and tho' it be cut out of the ground in vast pieces, yet is it easily reduced to powder; it is generally white in the oar, though sometimes it proves blackish, but is soon whitened by the heat of the sun in the summer-season; it is somewhat more pungent than our common

mon falt, but nevertheless as proper for use. Perhaps the experiment try'd in *Aristotle's* time, might take place here with good suc-

cess; viz. That if you dig near the sea shoar, to meet at first with fresh water; and if you dig deeper, with salt water.

C H A P. II.

Of the four legg'd beasts.

**T**H E S E mountainous desarts being more adapted for wild ravenous beasts than men, abundance of *lyons, elephants, rhinocerots, tygers, or rather panthers, wolves, elks, sea-horses, \* wild horses, buffaloes, wild boars, wild dogs, baboons, porcupines, hedge-hogs, lynxes, stags, badgers, otters, bares, and wild asses* of a delicious colour, with white streaks all over their bodies; *goats, wild goats, evecks, some finely spotted, some of an ash colour; buck goats* which leap from rock to rock; *wild dogs and wild cats like tygers*; a certain kind of *foxes*, commonly

\* I have seen some of these creatures of a prodigious bigness, says *Plin.* l. 8. c. 25, and 26.

call'd *jackalls*; and a few of these creatures call'd by them *tamandua graca*, and by the *Dutch, pismire-eaters*; † but are not so big as those of *Brazil*. That a prodigious number of these creatures harbour in these mountains, may be gather'd from thence, that a few huntsmen belonging to the governor of the fort, do take sometimes many thousand weight of them (especially of *sea-horses* and *elks*) at once; a convincing argument how much *Aristotle* was mistaken, \* when he says, *That Africk produces no wild boars, no stags nor wild goats.*

† See *Marcgrav. Hist. Quadrup.* l. 6. c. 4.

\* *Hist. Anim.* l. 8. c. 28.

C H A P. III.

Of their birds.

**O**F birds, they have also vast numbers, and of divers colours, viz. *ostriches, peacocks, cranes, black storks, herons, geese, bittournes, ducks, guinea cocks and hens, teals, felfares, cormorants, didappers, fen-ducks, pochards, penguicks, partridges red and grey; pheasants, lapwings, nightingales, snipes*, but these very small, *owls*, and millions of *sea-*

\* See *Rocheford lib.* l. cit. p. 133.

*gulls, † martinets and swallows* of various colours, *colybrides*, birds that suck a certain knotted plant, not unlike a *pellican* (describ'd by me elsewhere, as likewise by *Mr. Rocheford*, and *Mr. Marcgrave*.) The *French* call it *Flammant*, and the *Dutch* *Flaniteen*, after the *Portuguese*; with various feathers standing up an end.

† *Pliny* describes these birds erroneously with- out Legs.

C H A P. IV.

Of their fishes.

**T**H E sea and rivers of this cape, afford also various kinds of fishes, viz. *sea-lions, sea-rabbits*, a certain fish called *Guapervas* by the *Brasilians*, *whales* of a peculiar kind, called *Uratcapers*, or *finfishes*, by the *Dutch, lampreys, trouts, salmons, thornback, mussels, giltheads, eels*, and two different sorts of *carps*; the first kind is commonly known by the name of *Hottentots-fish*, because the natives extremely delight in it, they being of excellent taste, and covered all over with thick scales; the other kind is also a very delicious fish, called *Stone-broeksem*. They have also a kind of fish like *dogs*, \* called *Cassan* by the

\* See *Marcgrave*, l. 4. c. 12.

*Portuguese, bristers, lobsters, crab-fishes, crampfish, mussels, wrinckles, cuttles*, and among the rest, a certain fish call'd the *Swimmerly Parepus*, and *Slautilus*, by *Pliny*: but my design of keeping my self within the limits of an epitome, will not permit me to give you a particular account of all; I will only add, that one day as I was walking along upon the very brink of the sea-shoar, to examine the several products of the sea, I did light upon some small creatures sticking to the rocks very close, with their feet, representing by the excretion of their fibres, our *roses*, whence they are call'd by the *Dutch, Klippersen* or *Roeckroses*.