

Some New and Accurate

OBSERVATIONS

Geographical, Natural and Historical.

Containing a true and impartial

A C C O U N T

OF THE

Situation, Product, and Natural History

OF THE

Coast of *GUINEA*,

SO FAR

As relates to the Improvement
of that Trade, for the Advantage of
Great Britain in general, and the
Royal African Company in particular.

By *JAMES HOUSTOUN*, M. D.

*Humbly Address'd to the Honourable the Court of
Assistants of the Royal African Company of
Great Britain.*

L O N D O N:

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E R R A T A.

Page 19. Line 2. *Cracraw Head* read *Cracraw per Head*.
l. 12. *everawed* r. *overawed*. Page 21. l. 21. *Tama-
rond* r. *Tamarind*. *Cocoa* r. *Cocoe*. Line 22. *Guavan* r.
Guavaw. Page 24. l. 6. *Calyack* r. *Caliack*. Page 45.
l. 18. *I has* r. *I have*.



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S I R,



Have perused the Papers you left with me, which I sincerely think are very just and right, and what you will be inexcusable, if you do not divulge in the best manner you shall think proper. The Gentlemen are filling my Room, that I must close, being with great Truth,

S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

FRA. LYNN, *Sec.*



Some New and Accurate

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

Coast of *Guinea*.

Address'd to the

Honourable Assistants of the
Royal African Company.



HAVING the Honour to
be employed in this
Honourable Company's
Service in the Station of
Physician to their Set-
tlements on the Coast
of *Africa*, and Chief Surgeon at *Cape
Coast Castle*; and having had the Satis-
faction (if there is any such thing in
this Country) of visiting all your Set-
tlements on the Coast, excepting *Garn-
B bay*

bay and *Angola*; I think it my indispensable Duty to give your Honours a true and impartial Account of your Settlements, to obviate the Misrepresentations given you by selfish, mean, cringing Creatures, to serve only their own little mercenary Ends; and to detect the Barbarities and Villainies of your chief Agents Abroad, whom you are pleased to entitle Captain Generals and Chief Governors. And as there are Gentlemen of the strictest Honour and Honesty engaged in this Honourable Company, I flatter myself that it will be taken in good Part, that I give your Honours a true and impartial Account, how far your Settlements may be improved for the real Advantage of Trade, and what Obstructions and Hindrances they lie under at this present Time.

I arrived at your Settlement of *Sierra Leon*, I think it was the beginning of *July 1722*, where I was received with good Manners by your Chief Agent there, *Mr. Plunkett*. I shall not trouble your Honours with the Topography of that Place, seeing you can find it elsewhere;
only

only tell you, that the River of *Sierra Leon* forms several beautiful Islands, on one of which stands the Company's Factory, about Eight Miles from the Mouth of the River; where there's a safe Harbour called *Frenchman's Bay*, with a fine Watering-Place, with the purest Water continually springing from the woody Rocks.

About Three Miles distant from that Island where your Factory stands, is a pleasant and most fertile Island, formed by that same River, called *Terfas*, about Eight Miles in Circumference. This Island, I'm perswaded, is capable of producing, with due Cultivation, every thing produceable under the *Torrid Zone*. Here sprouts up, without any Cultivation, plenty of *Indigo* Bushes; and I have measured a Cotton Tree on this Island, in Presence of Mr. *David Scot*, Factor, and Mr. *Hoskins*, Surgeon, the Trunk of which measured Thirteen Fathoms in Circumference: But as Cotton Trees increase in Age, Bulk, and Branches, they decrease in Number of Pods; for the numerous Pods fit for Manufacture, are only found on Shrubs.

Had I been a Windle-straw-man, I might have made a Collection of different Plants here, and ranged them under their different Classes, to entertain the Fraternity ; but as my Genius never led me to the Study of Speculative Botany, farther than a Branch of Physick, I freely own, my Knowledge in the Vegetable, Animal and Mineral Kingdoms extends no farther than what's comprehended under the *Materia Medica*: Or if I had had the Honour to be of the Number of the *Virtuosi*, I had certainly made a great Collection of Butterflies, of which there are great Numbers and vast Variety here ; not neglecting the Cockle-Shells, which very much resemble our Cowries, which might have been of considerable Use to me afterwards, as current Money on the Slave-Coast. How far these Collections might have contributed to the Rise of *African* Stock, I shall not pretend to determine ; only to beg Pardon if Neglect of Duty has contributed any Thing to the Detriment of the Company upon that Account ; The only Apology I have to make for my self is, that

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I was credibly informed that your Honours had appointed a Gentleman to visit the Coast, who had made Botany his particular Study, who was to make a particular Collection of all Herbs, *Aromatick* Plants, Butterflies, Cockle-Shells, &c. which would have contributed to the Advantage of the learned World, and for ought I know, likewise to the Advantage of the Company. I always looked upon my principal Business and Care, to see if I could contribute any thing to the Preservation of your Servants Health Abroad, and that the Company was not imposed on by their Agents purchasing sickly and disabled Slaves. How far I have suffered by exerting my self on this Account, will appear by the Sequel; which I hope your Honours, by your known Justice and Generosity, and for Advantage to the Company, will redress. What Dispensary Herbs came under my Cognizance in this Place, are *Calamus Aromaticus*, *Serpentaria*, but much inferior to the *Virginian*; the Roots of which Herbs I infus'd in Brandy, of which I took a Drachm

Drachm now and then, to support my drooping Spirits, and gave it as a Cordial to the Sick; so I can experimentally attest its being a pleasant Bitter and good Stomatick, by restricting the relaxed Fibres of the Stomach. I likewise found some Herbs of the Emollient kind, resembling our *Mallows* and *Marsh-mallows*, and the Flower of an Herb much resembling our *Camomil*, which I made use of for emollient Fomentations and Cataplasms. There is a Leaf of a Dwarf Tree or Shrub, much resembling our *Bay Leaf*, made use of by the Natives and our White People in the hot Bath with wonderful good Success; It is Emollient, Relaxant, and Absorbent, or I may rather say Attractive, by sucking up the obnoxious Particles, when the Pores are opened by the hot Water, suck'd in with the pestilential Air, and thrown on the Habit of the Body by the Force of Circulation.

It is remarkable, that over all this Coast there are vast Quantities of a Plant call'd *Morsus Diaboli*, or *Devil's Bite*. Here are likewise prodigious Quantities of
Limes,

Limes, Oranges, Plantanes and Bonanaes; and down where the River opens into the Sea, where the Ships lie in Harbour, there are high Lands inhabited by several *Englishmen*, separate Traders from the Company; where I have seen Citron Trees in their Gardens, bearing Fruit to Perfection without any Cultivation, only the Seed put in the Ground without inoculating, or so much as transplanting the Tree in its tender Years.

I remember, being on the Island of *Terfas* one Day, it being then the rainy Season, I was drove to protect myself from the Violence of Rains which fell in such Deluges, with violent Lightnings and Thunder, as if the Heavens and Earth were coming together, into a House, or I may rather say a Hutt, inhabited by an old Negro Woman, a Slave to our Company: The poor old Creature was sitting over a Fire, baking Bread; the Meal was made of the Roots of a Tree pounded, which she call'd *Jamming* in her Dialect, between two Stones: I tasted of the Bread when baked, which she call'd *Manioco*; it had much of the
Taste

Taste of a roasted Potatoc, only dryer and sweeter ; but I take the Food to be wholesome and hearty enough, for this Woman seem'd to be of a good old Age, and at the same time of a hail Constitution ; but neither she, nor any of her Species that ever I met with on the Coast, can give an Account of their Age ; nor is there any of the Negroes that can count above Thirty Six, and they divide their Time by Moons. This poor Creature had nothing but this Bread, or a roasted Plantane to live on, and was vigorous and strong considering her Age, which I took at least to be Seventy : She's the sole Inhabitant of this Island, and her little Hut is Part of the Remains of the Company's Factory House, which Mr. *Plunkett* told me was first on this Island ; but the Unwholesomeness of the Air proceeding from the Island not being cleared from Wood, which caused a great Mortality amongst the Company's Servants, even to the Danger of his own Life, and he not having Hands enough to clear the Island, he was obliged to remove the Factory to a
 much

much lesser Island, on which it stands at present, much better situated by Nature for Defence; more clear of all Wood, but not by much so fertile, nor does it produce so good Water; but that Defect may be supply'd by fetching it from thence, being only three Miles distant.

I chanced to be talking to Mr. *Plunkett*, one Day, about the different Produces that this Country, I mean the *Grain Coast*, was capable of producing for the Advantages of Trade; which gave him an Occasion to shew me a Mineral, which he gather'd in great Quantities from the Sand of the River, which he then fancied contain'd some Gold or Silver: It was a small Dust of the chalybiated Kind; but its Specifick Gravity bearing a vast Disproportion from the Specifick Gravity of Gold or even Silver, I was persuaded if it contained either of those noble Minerals, it was but in a very small Proportion. I made what Experiments on it the Conveniency of the Place cou'd afford, by separating the Parts in a Crucible in a Blacksmith's Furnace; in the

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Dissolution, the Metallick Part separated from the Ore, and resembled Silver in Colour, but came vastly short of the Specifick Gravity of Silver. Mr. *Plunkett* sent your Honours several Pounds to make Experiments on't, which I'm afraid came to no bearing; so I only beg leave to repeat the *Virgilian* Expression that Mr. *Plunkett* then made use of to your Honours, *Quid non mortalia pectora cogit auri sacra fames.*

There's a sort of a Rattane grows at *Sherbro*, which the Country People dye into different Colours with the Juice of a Berry, and work them very artificially into Matts, which they lay on the Floor of their little Hutts, and is all the Bedding that even the better sort of the Natives make use of; the common Negroes lie naked on the bare Ground. When I was at *Sierra Leon*, Mr. *Plunkett* redeem'd, for the Use of the Company, some free Negro Women at *Sherbro*, who were taken Captives by their Neighbours, and set them to work about these Matts, and making some Bottoms and Backs to Chairs, which he design'd for a Present,

to shew the Ingenuity of the Natives, to a *truly Noble Peer*, who honours your Society by being a Member of it; on which your Honours made a Demand on him for Fifty Thousand such for the Use of the Company; whereas, to my certain Knowledge, it was with the greatest Difficulty he cou'd get so much Rattane, and as many Hands to manage those few he sent for a Sample.

I am fully perswaded, that your Honours have the Interest of the Company at Heart, and act only from that Motive; which makes you lay hold of any Project, tho' misrepresented by ignorant Miscreants, which seemingly tends to the Advantage of the Company; this induces me to take the Freedom to tell your Honours, that there's not the least Probability of finding either Gold or Silver on the *Grain Coast*: But if there can be any reasonable Proposals made to your Honours, of settling a Manufactory of *Indigo*, I assure you this Country will produce what Quantity you please; as likewise you may have Plantations of *Cotton*; and, indeed, this is the only Part of the

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Coast,

Coast, including *Gambay*, fit for such Plantations, by reason of the numerous fertile Islands, produced by the Rivers of *Gambay* and *Sierra Leon*. These Islands are naturally a Defence to themselves, from what Incurfions the Natives are capable of making against them; and may be cleared of Wood by a few Hands, even by the Company's Shipping Slaves, at no Cost; which at the same time might fetch a considerable Profit to the Company, from the great Quantity of Lixivate fix'd Salt, with which this Wood is so plentifully impregnated, for the Manufactory of Soap.

I must take the Liberty here to refute the universal, tho' falsly receiv'd, Opinion, that it's only some particular Wood, whose fix'd Salt is fit for the Manufactory of Soap, &c. But I assure your Honours, that all Lixivate fix'd Salt, extracted from what Wood or Plant soever, is of the same Nature and Quality, both as to its Medicinal and Manufactory Uses; so they only differ in Quantity, not in Quality. Some Wood, and this in particular, which all these

these Islands are overgrown with, yields a much greater Quantity of this Salt than others, and consequently most fit for this Purpose. I could discant some Hours in demonstrating the Advantages which accrue from a Manufactory of Soap ; but I hear there's such a Manufactory at *London*, under the Direction of a Gentleman of the most polite Learning, and universal Knowledge, whose Capacity is so extensive, that nothing can possibly escape his just Observation.

Your Honours may, perhaps, think that it is out of my Province to talk of Trade ; but as it is the general Conversation of the Place, and naturally falls in with the Notions of any Body on the Spot ; and he that's only endow'd with common Reason and Judgment, may be as competent a Judge of the Trade of this Coast, as the most refin'd Merchant ; I hope your Honours will pardon me, if I tell you, that I have talk'd with the most sensible of these separate Traders in this Place, whom your Honours look upon as a Nuisance to the Company, and have
heard

heard the Proposals your Honours made to unite them as Servants to the Company: But give me Leave to say, there's no Occasion of Articles with them, provided you give them a better Price for what Slaves they make, than Interlopers, which you propose in your Articles; and take off their Hands whatever Number they are able to make, which will naturally lead them to be voluntary Agents for the Company only. And indeed, it's my Opinion, and I think it demonstrable, that it wou'd be infinitely for the Advantage of the Company, that your own Servants were under such Regulations; which I shall humbly propose in the Sequel of this Narration, when it shall more naturally fall in with Proposals for Regulations, for the better Preservation of your Servants Health Abroad.

But as Mr. *Plunkett* nor I were no ways impower'd by your Honours to put your Settlement under any new Regulations, however advantageous for the Benefit of your Servants; so I cou'd only be serviceable by visiting the Sick, and administering

ministring what Things were necessary for their present Distempers, and furnishing this, as I did most of your other Settlements, with Medicines, which I brought from *England*, at my own Charge; for indeed I found very few Medicines here, or elsewhere, on the Coast; and even those few very much damnified.

After having stay'd some Time here, and having been of some Service to your poor perishing Servants, as appears by Mr. *Plunkett's* Certificate to your Honours, I proceeded on my Voyage according to my Instructions to the *Gold Coast*: We put out to Sea as usual, and the first Land we made was *Cape Palmas*; there's nothing remarkable along this Coast, till we come to the Subordinate Factory of *Dick's Cove*, only all this Country being one continued Thicket of Wood, the great Variety form'd by the Tops of the never-fading Trees, makes the finest and most beautiful Landskip, viewed from the smooth Sea all along the Coast, that ever my Eyes beheld. There are a great many little Towns all along
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this Coast, built on the Sands by the numerous Negroes flocking from the Inland Countries, and building their little Hutts by the Sea-side, for the Conveniency of trading with the Coasting Ships ; such as *Jaque Laboe*, *Jaque a Jaque*, *Affine*, *Great and Little Bassam*, with many others ; so that I assure your Honours, if we had had a Power to Slave our Ship, we cou'd have put more Slaves on board, besides Teeth and Gold, in one Month's Time, in that Coasting Voyage, than your Governor and Merchants were able to do in Five Months at *Cape Coast*. I remember we put in at *Cape Three Points*, the only Watering-Place on that Coast ; there stands *Fredericksburg Fort*, which formerly belonged to the present King of *Prussia*, now in Possession of one *John Conny*, a very great *Caboceer* of that Country ; for he has almost all that Country at his Command : Hearing from his Domesticks that came on board, on Embassy from him, with his Gold-headed Cane, as a Badge of their invested Power, to demand of us some little trifling Affair for watering there ;

there ; that he was a great Lover of the *English*, but a mortal Enemy to the *Dutch*. My Curiosity led me ashore to visit King *Conny* in his Castle, who receiv'd me very kindly, with the usual Ceremonies of their Country Musick, Drums and Horns, and ask'd me what Wines I pleas'd to drink ? He had several sorts of *European* Wines ; but I chose rather to drink, what I knew was more agreeable to him, Brandy ; which he, to compliment me, caus'd to be made into Punch. When he turn'd a little warm'd with Liquor, he shew'd me a *Dutchman's* Skull, and ask'd me if I wou'd pledge him in a Bumper of Punch, to the Damnation of the *Dutch*, from that Skull ? I humour'd the Jest, but begg'd he would excuse me, the Draught being too large for me. If we had been empower'd to trade with him on Account of the Company, I cou'd have purchased from him a considerable Number of Slaves, with what Quantity I pleas'd of Rice, the only Product of this Country, for the Soil seems agreeable for nothing else ; and it's from hence

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that most part of the *Gold Coast* is furnish'd with that Grain. Here's a fine River that goes a great many Miles into the Inland Country, and finely shaded on each side by lofty Trees.

I shall pass by the *Dutch* Settlements here, without taking the least Notice of them, as not being worth your Honours while, seeing you can have an Account of them elsewhere ; only when we come to Trade, I shall remark what Disadvantages we lie under by them : As we came along the Coast, we call'd in at *Dick's Cove* for Wood, where your Honours have a pretty little compacted Fort ; but I'm sorry to tell you, we found nothing in it but one poor Gentleman, a Writer, who was chief Factor, Writer, and every thing ; and two or three Creatures call'd Soldiers, just ready to expire for want of the common Necessaries of Life. Here you may see some Hundreds of Negroes of the Female Kind, sitting the Sand pushed down by the Rapidity of the River that comes from the Inland Countries, and opens into the Sea, for Gold Dust ; and they esteem'd it a good Day's Work

Work, if they found to the Value of a *Craucraw Head*, which is about Two Pence Half-penny. The Chief, as they call'd him, told me, by the Disturbances of the Natives amongst themselves, their Trade had been entirely interrupted for some time; but even when Trade was open, that they had but a very small Parcel of Goods to carry on any Trade worth talking of; and even those few Goods they were afraid to dispose of, tho' in a fair way of Trade, being everawed with with the Dread of the Despotick Power of the General, who only wanted a handle to mulct them in what Sums he thought fit, to satiate his own avaritious Desires; and indeed this poor Man had lately met with an Instance of it, the General having lately mulcted him of Two Months Salary and Substance, for only going to *Secondee* without his Leave, to see an Acquaintance who was dying, and earnestly begg'd to see him: But I'm perswaded, that if we cou'd have furnish'd this Man with Goods, free of the Tyrannical Power of the Governor, he was able to have furnish'd us a considerable

Number of Slaves to a good Advantage for the Company. We likewise call'd in at *Secondee*, where we found your Fort much in the same Condition, with one poor Gentleman in't, whose Life was a Burthen to him; for your General had brought him more in Debt to the Company, than ever he could possibly extricate himself from, and stop'd his Allowance for the Discharge of it; so that he was even reduced to Starving in a starved Country. This Country all round is very mountainous, all covered with lofty Trees, yet forms some Vallies as plentiful and pleasant as any in the World; which produce Oranges, Lemons, Limes, Pines, and, in short, all manner of Aromatick Fruits. I never had an Opportunity of seeing your Honours Fort at *Commendo*, but I have had a very particular Description of it; by its Situation, Strength and Bigness we are able to demolish our Antagonist, the *Dutch* Fort hard by it, if ever we shou'd have a Rupture with them.

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I'm now arrived at your Honours principal Fort of *Cabo Corso Castle*. I shall not now trouble your Honours with a Description of it, only say, that by its Situation, Strength, and commodious Apartments, it is capable of lodging a Garrison able to defend themselves against whatever Force, whether *European* or Natives, that Country is able to muster up against them, and to keep their own Ships safe in the Harbour under their own Cannon. Here your Honours have a large Field of Gardening Ground, at least Ten Miles in Circumference, capable, with due Cultivation, of producing any thing produceable under the *Torrid Zone*. The Ground is mountainous, and forms fine, pleasant, and fertile Vallies, which produce all sorts of Fruit Trees, such as Cinnamon, Citron, Tamarond, Cocoa, Papay, Palm, Lemon, Orange, Lime and Guavan, &c. besides great Variety of Pot-Herbs and Roots. I shall not trouble your Honours with a Description of these Trees, seeing you can have it elsewhere; and I shall have occasion to talk of the Virtues of some
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of them, especially the Palm Tree, when I account for the Diseases so fatal to your Servants Abroad, from whence they have their Sources. I must remark, that the Cinnamon here is of the Bastard kind, for want of Inoculation and due Cultivation in its tender Years ; but I never, in all my Travels, saw finer and larger Lemons and Oranges : I have extracted their essential Oil as fine as any in the World. There might be raised here Plantations of Sugar Canes, which grow without any Cultivation, and plenty of Cotton Shrubs, fertile in Pods ; and I am persuaded the *Madera* Vine would thrive better on those Hills than in its native Soil, for the Mold is in every respect the same, only superior in Fertility. I need not tell your Honours, that down from *Cape Three Points* to *Acra*, all the Inland circumjacent Countries produce considerable Quantities of Gold, which the cunning and laborious, though ignorant *Negroes* pick up from the scatter'd Veins of the rich Mines, and from the Sands, washed down by the Rapidity of

of the River. Before I arrived at *Cape Coast*, by seeing Pieces of solid Gold, just as it was dug from the Earth, I was fully persuaded that there were real gold Mines of the richest sort in this Country; but I suspended my Judgment from any farther Enquiry, 'till my Arrival at *Cape Coast*, where I heard your Honours had sent from *England*, a certain Number of Miners, with two Gentlemen Overseers, who had made the Mineral Kingdom their particular Study and Practice. I found, at my Arrival, most of them dead, and those alive were now and then a digging of little Holes or Pits in the Ground by the Sea-side, and searching that Earth for Gold; which appeared to me to be rather a Burlesque than any real Enquiry: But I was told afterwards, that they durst not venture the Miners out of the reach of the Castle Guns, lest the *Negroes*, who certainly took them for Conjurers, should make Incurfions on them, to the Hazard of their Lives. But how unaccountable is it to think, that the Mines, which we have good reason to believe are only in
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the Inland Countries, should extend their Veins or Branches to the Sea, which, if once found, an expert Artist could as easily trace them to their Source or main Body, as an expert Anatomist could trace a Branch of the Calyack, or any other Artery or Vein, to its original Source and Trunk, the *Aorta*; nor do I believe there's any one Mine all over *Africa*, found out even to the *Negroes*, tho' we have very good Reasons to believe there are such, and very rich of their Kind, from the Pieces of Mountain Gold dug from the scatter'd Veins, which we purchase from the Natives, though they cunningly and industriously conceal from us how they come by it; nor indeed do I see any Prospect we have of ever discovering them, through the inaccessible Way to the Inland Countries; which must be pushed through a Thicket of Wood. The Scarcity of Provisions for Subsistence, and the Resistance that necessarily must be made by the Natives, are Reasons of the Impossibility of the Project of discovering and possessing their Mines; which at the same Time I am
 fully

perswaded do really exist, if we knew how to get at them; but I do really believe, at a very modest Computation, there is above 40000 Ounces of Gold *per Ann. communibus annis*, over the *Gold Coast*, pickt up by the Natives, the Product of the Inland Countries, and disposed of to different Hands, and carried to different Parts of *Europe*; besides 25 or 30000 Ounces more brought to the Coast from *Brazil*, by the *Portugueze*, to purchase Slaves, and carried from thence by *European* Hands into different Parts of *Europe*, viz. *England*, *Holland* and *France*. I have likewise visited your Forts of *Annamaboe*, *Winnaeba*, *Tantumquerry*, and *Acra*; and indeed they more resemble haunted Houses than garrison'd Forts, having one Ghost above Stairs, and perhaps 2 or 3 at most below, spinning out a Life that is a real Burden to them, in a miserable Condition, under the Tyranny of Despotick Power, lodged in villanous Hands; so that Trade, tho' never so brisk in the Country, must be intirely stifled, thro' the Inability of a poor starved Gentle-

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man, who must likewise bear the blame of the want of Trade, to exculpate the Designs of his Superiors.

Your Honours can be no Strangers to this Usage; but I shall take the Liberty to refresh your Memories, in detecting the Villanies in the Management of your Chief Agent, or Governor, as they are pleas'd to call him, at your Settlement at *Whydah*, where I am now arrived, in an open, pleasant, plentiful fine champaign Country, as any this Globe can produce. We have a continual Verdure on a level Ground, at the Distance of every half Mile, finely beautified with a Grove of lofty Trees, which forms a fine Shade, where you may view the Country several Miles round you, without so much as one Hillock to intercept the lovely Prospect. Nature has made this Country vie, if not exceed, for Pleasure and Plenty, abstracting from the Embellishments of Art, any in *Europe*. The Soil is extraordinary fertile, producing four Crops yearly, *viz.* Two of Corn, small and great; one of Beans, resembling the
French

French Beans; and one of Potatoes. And the laborious Negroes don't leave one Bit of Ground uncultivated, but make their yearly Demand; for as soon as Mother Earth has yielded up one Crop, they commit another to her Nurture. Here are plenty of all manner of Cattle, Fowl of all sorts, tame and wild, and Fish in Perfection; in short, every thing necessary for the Support of humane Life, nay, even to feed Luxury. This Country produces nothing fit for Exportation but Slaves, from whence there are incredible Numbers carried off Yearly; the contiguous Countries producing only a few Teeth, so that all along the Coast, where your Honours have any Concern, from *Gambay* to this Place, I compute there are carried off by different Hands, above 30000 Slaves yearly, and of that Number more than one Half are carried from hence. How many of that Number are purchased by your Honours Agent here, for the Benefit of the Company, you are competent Judges; but I must beg leave to acquaint your Honours of the Manner,

which I take to be my indispenfible Duty, in difcharging the Truft of a faithful Servant to the Company, by laying open to the World the Villanies committed by one of your Chief Agents, to the Difgrace of the Directors his Mafters, and intire Ruin of the Company.

Mr. *B—ldw—n* having about Two Hundred and Eighty Slaves, which were the Refufe of a much greater Number fold to the *Portugueze*, and having your Honours Ship the *Whydah*, Capt. *Levett* Commander, waiting to be flav'd by him; he fent the Ship, and put Mr. *Mabyn*, your chief Merchant, on board of her, to be flaved to the Windward, and muft needs put thofe Two Hundred and Eighty Slaves on board to take the Air; for indeed they wanted it much, for they were fo meagre, and old, and lame, they cou'd fcarcely ftand upright. I told him my Opinion was, he had better keep them Slaves in the Trunk till Capt. *Levett's* Return, which was ordered in three Months Time; for they were more fit for an Hofpital than a Voyage,

Voyage, meerly to take the Air, for so it appeared; for the Inconveniencies of stowing Negroes on board was the Cause of a much greater Mortality than otherwise wou'd have happen'd, to the great Loss and Detriment of the Company. I exerted my self on this, as on other Occasions, for the Honour and Interest of the Company, and suffer'd the utmost Misery by tyrannical Villany on that Account; which I now lay open to your Honours, and can attest every Fact; and only appeal for your Judgment, whether or not it was my Business to look into Slaves that I was to attest were merchantable, when at the same Time I was convinced they were not worth One Shilling *per* Head, tho' undoubtedly they were stated at a good Rate, as merchantable Slaves to your Honours Account; and Mr. *B—ldw—n* only wanted to have them die out of his Custody, that there might be no farther Enquiry made about them; for a dead Slave was better in his Pocket than a living one. He then swore he wou'd be reveng'd on me, and told me he
would

wou'd make a Devil of the Doctor, with the rest of his *Billingsgate* Phrases ; but never cou'd meet with any thing for Pretence to serve for a handle to Punishment ; till at last, one Day, he resolv'd to break thro' all the Laws of Reason and Humanity, to get rid of the Doctor, the only Check he met with in committing his avaritious Villanies ; he call'd me, and without assigning any Reason, offer'd to beat me, which I had not been much us'd to formerly ; but I had so much use of my Reason, he being my superior Officer, not to act otherwise than defensively. He then called the Soldiers of the Fort, and confin'd me to a Dungeon for Thirty Three Days, where I was supported by an Ounce of Bisket swarming with Vermine, and some Water once in Twenty Four Hours, handed in by a Black-Boy. I every Day expected to expire, eat up alive by innumerable Vermine ; but his Patience being quite worn out by my living beyond his Expectation, for the Design at first was certainly to murder me after that manner, that I should not come

Home

Home to tell Tales, he ordered me on Board the *Chandos* Galley, which was to carry 500 Slaves to *Jamaica*. I was entered as Surgeon to the Ship; and I exerted my self honestly, as I ought to do, even in that Station, by reviewing the Slaves, and rejecting those that were not merchantable, and entered a Protest against Fifty Four old, lame, decrepid Invalids, not worth a Farthing, and several Children which he stated in the Company's Books for Women, that were not Ten Years of Age. But that prevailed nothing, for he obliged the Commander, as he did others, to sign a Bill of Loading for the whole Number, as merchantable Slaves; and gave an Order to the Commander of the *Cleveland*, an interloping Ship, to pick out what Slaves they had agreed for from the whole Cargo; which the Interlopers in general brag of in the *West Indies*, and with very good Reason, to the Dishonour and great Detriment of the Company. I am credibly informed, that this Gentleman has given your Honours a false Impression of me, by writing

ting you false and scandalous Lies : I hope I shall have an Opportunity of disappointing his villanous Design, of murdering my Character at Home, as he designed my Body Abroad ; and shew your Honours, and all the World, which of us Two have been the most faithful Servant to the Company ; and I hope your Honours will do us both Justice, to prevent my appealing to the Law of Nature, and as a true Subject of *Britain* to the Laws of the Land, for Redress of Grievances which encroach on your Honour, the Company's Interest, and my Freedom, as a Subject of a free Country, endeavouring to rob me of my Life, my Effects, my All, my Character. I can't omit telling you, that he has not only ruined the Trade here at present, but left it irretrievable for the future, to serve his own mercenary Ends, by buying a large Quantity of Cowries for his own Use from Interlopers, and selling the Company's Cowries to the *Portuguese* : which put the Slave-Trade intirely into the Hands of the *Portuguese*, and lowered the Price of Cowries, which
were

were always formerly current Money at Five Ackes of Gold for a grand Cubesse in Booges, but are now reduc'd to Three Ackes. The Mystery is plain ! every grand Cubesse in Cowries put Two Ackes in his Pocket, and the Accompts ballanced in the Company's Books, to the utter Ruin and Destruction of Trade in general, and the Company's Interest in particular. But I am weary of telling these and enumerable other Villanies, of which your Honours must soon see the Effects.

Now your Honours may perhaps expect that I'm to entertain you with a Description of the natural Genius, political and religious Government and Customs of the Natives ; I shall only say in one Word, that their natural Temper is barbarously cruel, selfish, and deceitful, and their Government equally barbarous and uncivil ; and consequently, the Men of greatest Eminency amongst them, are those that are most capable of being the greatest Rogues ; Vice, being left without any Check on it, becomes a Virtue. As for their Customs, they ex-

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actly resemble their Fellow Creatures and Natives, the Monkeys: And as for their Religion, they only take their own unciviliz'd Method of becoming a Bubble to the different Fancies of the Bubblers; some worshipping Rocks, others Snakes, Spiders, &c. according to the different Humours of the *Fetich*-Men: And you may find on the Slave Coast (where the Country is prodigiously populous) Kings with several Thousands of Wives, and every Man a Proportionable Number, according to his Abilities; not forgetting a great Number of *Maiden* Wives set apart for the *Fetich*-Men.

I ought likewise to give your Honours an Account of the Animal Kingdom on the Coast: I can only tell you, that I found a very great Scarcity of the tame eatable Kind on most Parts of the *Grain* and *Gold Coast*; but that want was supplied by the Plenty of Fish all along the Coast, and the Curiosity satisfied with the Sight of vast Variety of the wild Kind, such as Elephants, Buffelers, Tygers, Boors, several sorts of Harts, Hares Porcupines, Hedge-Hogs, some amphi-
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bious Animals, such as the Aligator and Sea-Horse. We have likewise an Animal, which the Gold Coast *Negroes* call *A-rampo*, and the Slave Coast *Negroes*, *Chiphi*, or Man-Eater ; which I take to be a diminutive but more voracious Species of a Tyger. It is certain, when we throw out our dead Slaves on the Fields, this Animal carries off and devours them immediately. There is an infinite Variety of Monkeys along the Coast, and great Plenty and various Kinds of Lizards ; and I have caught several Camelions here. I shall not dwell on a Description of these Animals, having told your Honours, that I shall bring nothing of the Vegetable, Animal, and Mineral Kingdoms under your Cognizance, but what may either be fit for the Use or Subsistence of your Settlements on this Coast, or prove to the Advantage of the Company for Exportation ; and only take notice of them as they fall in with this Narration, without any regard to their due Order. But I must not complain too much even of the *Grain* and *Gold Coast* for want of

Edibles, only of the Mismanagement, for want of due Regulations and Discipline, which we shall talk of anon; for we have Goats, Hogs, Harts, Hares, Doves, Hens, wild and tame Ducks, tame of the *Moscovia* Kind, and the wild lesser than ours, Pheasants or *Guinea* Hens, Fish of several Kinds, such as Mulletts, Cod, but different from *European* Cod, Plaife, Flounders, Lobsters, Crabs, Prauns, Shrimps, and above all, a Fish called the King's Fish, with many others that I have no Name for. And at *Gambay* and *Acra*, there is plenty of Mutton and Beef. I might have brought under the Edible Kind, Rats and Mice, which to my Knowledge, one of your Factors was obliged to eat, for want of Necessaries of Life; and I myself wou'd have been glad of such a Morfel when expiring in a Dungeon, in the midst of Plenty, when at the same Time I had Money enough to purchase whatever I wanted; for at *Whydah* we have not only all Manner of Necessaries for the Support of Humane Life, but even to feed Luxury, for we have every Thing
here

here that is to be had any where else on this Coast, and several additional Things to be had no where else. We have Bulls, Cows, Sheep, Goats, Horses, Mules, Dogs and Cats, with plenty of tame and wild Fowl of all sorts, with great plenty of delicious Fish. We have not only all manner of the Edible Kind, but also great Variety for Pleasure; the Crown Bird, tho' scarce, is sometimes found here, with most beautiful Green Birds, with innumerable others; but my Genius not being curious enough this way, all the Rarities I have pick'd up are a Sea Horse's Head, and some Flies of the *Cantharides* Kind, exactly resembling the *Spanish Fly*; but I hope your Honours will not make a Demand of Bushels full for the Use of the Company, for I only design them as a Present for *Don Saltero Curioso*, at *Chelsea*, as the most ingenious and learned Man in his Way that I have the Honour to be known to. And as he is a publick Encourager of Learning, I think it's the Duty of every Person to promote his Interest to the utmost of his Power, for
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the common Benefit of Mankind. Indeed, I most heartily regret the Loss of a Camelion, which I kept alive for some Months, which afforded me Matter of Speculation in my melancholly Hours, by evidently demonstrating to me the Sympathy between the Soul and the Body; for, according to the different Passions you raised in the Mind, the Body changed immediately into different Colours: When it was perfectly pleas'd, it was of a beautiful light Green, and the whole Body, Tail and all, appear'd transparent; when displeas'd or very angry, of a dark brown cloudy Colour, and the Body and Tail perfectly Opake; and according to the intermediate Passions from the one Extreme to the other, so were the intermediate Colours formed beautiful to Admiration; but this Animal affords Subject-Matter for a sublime Speculation, which must be done by a Person free from the pressing Necessities of Life.

I can't miss taking Notice here of the vulgar Error, of believing that the Teeth are only got of Elephants that are killed;

led; I have all the reason in the World to believe that they cast their Teeth, from the great Quantities of that Commodity exported Yearly, which vastly exceed the Proportion of the Number of Elephants to be found on the Coast, or even in the Inland Countries; and as a Proof, the Quantities of that Commodity encrease Yearly: but I have no just Calculation of the yearly Export. I must likewise tell you, that we have plenty of Silk Cotton Trees here; they are hugely big, and produce Plenty of Pods; but I am credibly informed by an ingenious Mechanick at *London*, that this Cotton can't be manufactur'd; which I naturally conclude, proceeds only from the Trees being over-grown, as I remarked of the big Cotton Tree of the common Kind at *Sierra Leon*; and if there was a Plantation of Shrubs of this Kind, which produce Pods, they would be as fit for Manufacture as any in the World.

I can't well leave this Place, without taking some Notice of the God of *Whydah*, the Snake; of which we have two sorts here, the Fetiche-Snake
and

and Rattle Snake ; the former Species, which is what they worship, is about a Fathom in Length, and about the Thickness of a Man's Wrist, and finely variegated with different Colours, white, yellow, and brown. This Creature is intirely divested of the venomous Nature of a Serpent, and is altogether innocent and harmless : I have found them in Bed when I waked, where they had been for some Time, without doing the least Harm, farther than raising our Reluctancy, by looking at them. Indeed the Rattle Snake, which is smaller and black all over, is of a more venomous Nature, and much more active in its progressive Motion.

Now I shall say no more of the Geographical and Natural History of this Coast, only beg leave to make some few Observations of the general History of Trade, how far it may be improved for the Advantage of *Britain* in general, and the Royal *African* Company in particular, which must necessarily obviate the Difficulties they lie under at present, and set their Affairs in a more clear Light.

'Tis

'Tis a known Maxim in Policy, that the Richness or Poverty of a Trading Nation depends intirely upon its being more or less populous, so that the Number of Hands in that Nation are so much standing Riches in it; and consequently, that Trade which least depopulates the Country, and is carried on by its own Manufactures and Products, must indisputably be the most advantageous to the Nation, especially when most, if not all the Returns are made in ready Specie. How far this will answer with the *African* Trade, your Honours, who are a Society of the politest Gentlemen and finest Merchants, perhaps in the known World, are the best Judges. I only humbly beg leave to submit to your Judgment some Matters of Fact, which by travelling the Coast, are consistent with my proper Knowledge, and perhaps unknown to your Honours.

You see, Gentlemen, by my former Calculation, and methinks I can demonstrate its Justness, there are 40000 Ounces of Gold, the Product of the Country, and 30000 Ounces brought to the

Coast from *Brazil* by the *Portugueze*, which is *communibus annis*, 70000 Ounces of Gold *per Annum*; this with the Product of 30000 Slaves, besides those that are carried from *Angola*, which I have not as yet brought under Computation, reckoning those sold to the *Spaniards* and *Portugueze*, as well as those to the *English*, *French* and *Dutch* Plantations, your Honours will find them, one with another, even Children included, come out at 30 *l.* Sterling *per Head*, which amounts to 900000 *l.* Sterling; which, with the 70000 Ounces of Gold, come to 1110000 *l.* Sterling. This is besides Wax, Teeth, *Majombo*, Palm Oil, &c. which I have not brought under Computation. Now, I say, let us reckon 6000 Slaves more carried from *Angola* and the *Bite*, which I can't exactly compute, being an entire Stranger to those Places, but I take the Computation to be modest enough and within Bounds, which, at the former Rate amounts to 180000 *l.* and the whole Product of the Trade of this Coast amounts to 1290000 *l.* Sterling *per Annum*, besides

sides Wax, Teeth, Majombo, Palm-Oil, &c. which indeed I cannot bring under Computation, which are carried off the Coast by the *English, French, and Dutch*, and imported into *Europe*. Indeed, we must allow a considerable Draw-back on the Slave Trade; for the Number of Slaves carried off the Coast by the *Portugueze*, which they purchase directly from the *Negroes* with their Tobacco and Stinckabus Rum, and our Cowries, to the great Detriment of our *European* Trade in general, and your Honours Interest in particular; which has been intirely owing to the Mismanagement of your Honours late Chief Agent, Mr. *B—ldw—n*, to satiate his own mercenary and avaricious Ends, by selling them your Honours Cowries at a low Rate, for ready Gold, as I hinted pag. 32.

Now what a glorious and advantageous Trade this is, every *European* Society, as well as private interloping Traders, must be sensible of, as it is the Hinge on which all the Trade of this Globe moves on; for put a Stop to the

peopling the *European* Plantations Abroad, which could be done from no other Country but this, without depopulating *Europe*; I say, put a stop to the Slave Trade, and all the others cease of Course. Pray who digs the rich Mines of *Peru* and *Brazil*, &c? Nay, who sweetens the Ladies Tea, and the generous Bowl; and who reaps the Profit of all? Therefore, let every true *Briton* unanimously join to concert Measures, how to center this advantagious Trade in *England*; and I wish it cou'd be carried on by the Royal *African* Company, who hitherto have been greater Losers than Gainers by it; a Trade so greedily grasp'd at by the laborious *Dutch*, which they purchased by the Property of *Brazil*, in lieu of it. 'Tis only incumbent on me, as an Observator, to lay before your Honours what occurred to me as Hindrances to the Company's Interest, in respect to other *European* Nations, and in particular, by the *English* Interlopers; for as to other Nations, the *Dutch* are the only formidable Antagonists we have to deal with. This

Dutch

Dutch Guinea Company is an united Branch of their *India Company*, of which the States General bear the greatest Share, exclusive of all Interloping Traders of their own Nation, besides a Tax of 10 *per Cent.* on all the *Portugueze* Ships trading to this Coast, which they had granted them as an Article, in exchanging *Brazil* with the *Portugueze*, in lieu of this Trade ; which they strictly demand, and keep a Man of War a cruising always on the Coast, to put their Orders in Execution, as well against the *Portugueze*, as the Interloping Ships of their own Nation. So it plainly appears to your Honours, what great Advantages that Company have over ours ; and, indeed, as I has only the Interest of *Britain* at Heart, I cou'd and do wish from my very Heart, that his most gracious Majesty, who Honours your Society by being your Governor, wou'd take into his Consideration in Council ; and, by Consent of Parliament, grant your Company a Conditional, exclusive Charter : For it is unreasonable to expect or demand such a
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one as your Company had formerly, whilst under the Direction of the Duke of *York*, in King *Charles* the Second's Reign; the sad Effects of which plainly appear'd by the numerous Complaints of his Majesty's Subjects of his Plantations beyond Seas; which, if carried any higher, must have tended to their utter Ruin and Extirpation. Nor is it to be supposed, that even now, if the Company had an unlimited, exclusive Charter, that their Agents wou'd furnish his Majesty's Plantations with Slaves at 30 or 40 *l. per Head* of that Country Money; whereas, in a few Days they can waft them over to the *Spanish American* Coast, where they fetch 300 Pieces of Eight *per Head*, including the King of *Spain's* Taxes, and other Duties, which makes them come out at above 60 *l. Sterling*; a Price that won't answer with our *American* Plantations: But if his Majesty's Subjects were to compute their Yearly Demand of Negroes that are absolutely necessary for their Service, which might be easily done; and at the same time his Majesty wou'd be pleased

to grant the Royal *African* Company, either singly, or united with the *South Sea* Company, a Charter conditionally, to be obliged to furnish his Majesty's Plantations with their Quota of Slaves, demanded at 30 *l.* of the Country Money *per* Head, including Children above Eight or Ten Years of Age; which might answer both the Ends of the Planters of our *American* Plantations, and enable the Company to carry on a Trade, not only exclusive of all *English* Interlopers, but to enhance the Trade soley to themselves, exclusive of all other Nations, and to fetch into *England*, from the Manufactures and Commodities of our own Country, above a Million of Money Sterling Yearly in ready Specie; which is entirely stifled at present, through the Inability of the Company's struggling with such Difficulties, as the great Charge of the Company's maintaining their Settlements Abroad, whilst Interlopers come to take the Bread out of their Mouth; and even assisted in so doing by their own Agents, to serve their own mercenary Ends; whilst thus

thus weakening one another, the *Dutch*, never forgetful of their own Interest, assisted by other Nations, come in to carry off the Profit from both. Such a limited Charter as this, where there is not one Objection left against it, put in the Hands of any Society, empowering them to raise a sufficient Sum of Money to carry on that Trade, would not only enable us to furnish our Quota of Slaves, *viz.* 4800 *per Ann.* to the *Spaniards*, as stipulated by the *Affiento* Contract, and to make good former Deficiencies; but naturally bring the Slave Trade entirely into our Hands, exclusive of all other Nations; so consequently reap the Fruits of the *American* Mines, which they only give themselves the Trouble to dig, but in Hopes of such a glorious and advantageous Trade to *England*.

Let us in the mean time consider of Methods to support your Honours' Settlements Abroad; which, in some little time, if not speedily prevented, are in danger of falling into the Hands of Foreigners, to the Destruction of the *British* Trade, and entire Ruin and Extirpation

pation of his Majesty's *American Plantations*. How far your present Trade answers the Expence, is not my Business, as a Servant, to determine; but, methinks, it puts me in mind of an Observation made by one of your own Society, of a Shop-keeper's renting a Shop for 100 *l.* when he dealt only for 50 *l. per Ann.* But even in this Case, there is still a Remedy left; for if your Honours were to divest your Servants of the Honourable Titles of Captain-General and Chief Governors, and invest Three or more Factors with equal Power; which, with the Chief Surgeon, were to compose the Council; and each Settlement independent one of another, and support none but those that will answer the Charge; your Honours would find, that tho' they were Villains, whose Inclinations led them to cheat their Masters, yet their own Interest would so jar one with another, that they wou'd be necessarily obliged to do their Masters Justice: Whereas now the Despotick Power of the Governor, even tho' lodged in villanous Hands, must go uncontroul'd, without any Check

or Curb, of which I here produce a late Instance; and that none shou'd be promoted to be Factors, but those that have serv'd as Writers, with a due Observance of their Seniority. This OEconomy, with a strict Friendship and Correspondence kept amongst your Honours Servants thro' all your Settlements along the Coast; which, must be effectuated by keeping a certain Number of small Vessels, Six or Eight, always a cruising on the Coast, with proper Goods for picking up what Slaves and other Commodities are to be purchas'd, and deposited at any of your Settlements, till your large annual Ships which fetch your Goods from *England*, which ought always to sweep the Coast from the most Windward of your Settlements, call for them, and leave intheir room a new Cargo of Goods, which your Factors of that Settlement are to dispose of to the best Advantage, as accountable to your Honours in purchasing more Slaves and other Commodities; and grant a Power to the Commanders of your Ships to make what Slaves they can in Coasting, allowing a handsome

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Commission to your Factors and Commanders for what Slaves, &c. they purchase for the Use of the Company ; for there is nothing more certain, that if they don't live fairly, they must live foully ; this wou'd engage People of real Merit into your Honours Service, and to be hearty and honest whilst in your Service, seeing their own Interest depends entirely upon their Masters' : Whereas, by the present Establishment, the private Interest of your Governors, prompted by Ambition, Avarice and Despotick Power, makes all your Inferior Servants sink under Oppression, and wish for *Tyburn* in Exchange for their present Condition.

Now methinks I see all the Superior Servants of each of your Honours Settlements eating at the same Table, supported at the Company's Charge, laying down and unanimously concerting Measures for the Interest of their Masters, whose Bread they are presently eating ; whilst your little Coasting Vessels bring Assurances that your other Settlements are doing the same, and only want their Assistance how to

promote your Interest farther, whilst your annual Ships arrive with a fresh Supply of Goods, and proper *European* Necessaries for the Use of your Settlements; which wou'd make your Forts the common Repositories and Markets of the Coast, and turn the Channel of this glorious and advantageous Trade entirely into the Hands of the *English*: But how widely this differs from the present Management, is only known to those who have been on the Spot, to see and feel it.

Now it is only left incumbent on me, as my proper Business, to give your Honours some Account of the Diseases so fatal to your Servants Abroad, with their Causes and Remedies; and humbly to submit some few Proposals for the better Preservation of your Servants Health Abroad. It appears by my Journal, (which I shall not presume to trouble your Honours with a Detail of here; but am willing to submit it, by your Honours Orders, to the Examination of any of the Fraternity,) that Two third Parts and more of the Diseases so fatal

to your Servants are Diarrhœas and Dyfenteries, either as the Disease itself, or Symptomatical of a Fever, which sweep off the Patients without Mercy ; which proceeds entirely from their drinking Palm Wine or Potoe, and eating Bread call'd *Cankee*. This Palm Wine is the Juice of the Palm Tree, gather'd by boring a Hole in the Tree, and putting a Pipe in it, which drops Gutt by Gutt from the Tree into a Vessel or Pitcher fit to receive it ; and when fresh drawn just from the Tree, by its subtle penetrating Particles, is a most powerful Diuretick, and passes in a Moment's time, and at the same time inebriates, and is agreeable enough to the Taste ; but if it stands any Time, especially when confined from the open Air, nay, in Twenty four Hours I have known it to turn so acrid and corrosive to dissolve Iron, by making a visible Impression on it ; so if it chances to meet with any Obstruction or Retardment in the Stomach, or any other Vessels of the animal OEconomy, it undergoes a Fermentation, and produces most dismal Effects, not in the Power of any

Medi-

Medicines to remedy ; for the Matter turns so acrid, that it first brings away all that's in the Intestines, with the very Mucus that lines their Coats, which is its State whilst a Diarrhœa ; then the Matter turns more and more acrid, being depriv'd of the Mixture of the Juices of the Stomach and Intestines, cuts the smaller Vessels, and even sometimes the larger, and brings away the very Coats of the Intestines piece-meal, which is its dismal agonizing State of a Dysentery, not in the Power of any Medicine to remedy ; for I have try'd all sorts even in its Infancy, Purgatives, Astringents, Opiates, all of the same effect washed off that Moment they're taken, by the corrosive Humour, which at the same time infected the whole Mass of Blood ; I have likewise made use of Absorbents and Emollient Glysters, but all to the same purpose ; no Remedy left but by preventing its Causes in others. What I have said of the Effects of Palm Wine may justly be ascribed to Potoc, only with this difference, that the Particles of this Liquor being grosser, and consequently
more

more unactive, makes it less Diuretick, and more flatulent ; so that it seldom or never misses Obstructions and Retardments in its Passage ; which swells them up prodigiously, and produces by its Fermentation all the different Gradations of the former dismal Effects. This Liquor is only an Infusion of Water, with the common Grain call'd *Milbio* or *Millet* : They take the greater sort of on the *Gold Coast*, and the small Grain call'd *Maiz* on the *Slave Coast* ; this they infuse in common Water, without preparing the Grain for the Infusion, and allow it to steep for some Days ; then pour off the Infusion, which as yet has undergone no Fermentation for want of Yeast ; but so soon as confin'd from the open Air, as in Bottles, or even in the Stomach, it undergoes a most violent Fermentation, by expanding itself, to the inevitable Destruction of the Bottles, or even the animal Fabrick, by producing the former dismal Effects : And as *Cankee* is nothing but Bread made of this Grain, jammed or grinded between two Stones, with Palm Wine or Potoe, which serves instead of Yeast,

Yeast, accounting for the Effects of the one, sufficiently demonstrates the bad Effects of the other.

There is but one other Disease epidemically fatal to your Servants, which they call the *Seasoning*, known to all *Europeans* that come under the *Torrid Zone*, which is nothing but a Fever, caus'd by the Change of the Climate; but to account for this Disease, with all its different Symptoms and Effects, wou'd be to give an exact Analytical Description of the different Qualities of the Air, and Effects they produce on humane Bodies; an Essay reserved for my more easy and leisure Hours, more fit to entertain the Fraternity, than to instruct your Honours in what is entirely foreign from our Subject. Yet I cannot omit telling you one strange Quality of the Air: When there blows an Easterly Wind here, I have seen it open the close Seams of an Escrutore, so that you might thrust a Crown-Piece into it, and bend the Covers of the Books, just as if they were laid over the Fire, or expos'd to the darting Rays of the Sun

at

at Noon; and at the same Time you feel a sensible Alteration of the Animal Fabrick, which feels more of a Chillness of the Air than over-hot; which if any one is reduced low by Sickness, cuts them off without Mercy; and soon after the Wind changes, the Escrutore, Books, &c. are reduced of their own Accord, to their former State.

The only two Diseases epidemical in this Country, that fall under your Honours Cognizance, as the only proper Physicians to remedy them, are Tyrannical Oppression, and Want of Necessaries of Life. I shall give your Honours an Instance of the one, and lay down a Method for preventing the other. When I arriv'd at *Whydah*, I found a poor unlucky young Man, one *Francis Marshal*, a Writer in your Honours Service, just expiring, sunk under the Load of barbarous Oppression; he told me, which was attested by all on the Spot, that Governor *B—ldw—n* caus'd him to be stript naked, and whipt at the Tree, after a most inhumane and barbarous

I Manner;

Manner ; as afterwards I have seen him treat several of the Soldiers, and confine *Bailie* the Carpenter to a Dungeon, with his Hands and Legs in Double Irons for above a Month's Time. And that I may repay Mr. *B—ldw—n* in his own Style ; I say, “ Whether it was Mr. *B—ldw—n*'s Ignorance, or malicious Cruelty, we know not ; but verily believe several of your Honours Servants perished, either through one or both ; nor did it lie in our Power to make him do less, except we had been invested with a Power equal to his ; for tho' he was particularly recommended, nay took Oath, not to trade on his own private Account, we never cou'd prevail on him to obey and ob-serve it in any one Point.” 'Tis certain, that poor *Marshal* did die in a very miserable Condition, quite sunk in Spirit ; but whether of the Governor or Doctor I shall not determine, but submit it entirely to the Determination of your Honours, as appears *per Journal* ; but I wish our Governor has not left his at *Whydah*. The

The Want of Necessaries of Life does not so much proceed from the Scarcity of the Country, or Want of a competent Allowance from your Honours for Maintenance, as it is the Effect of Despotick Power ; which, when it chances to be lodged in villanous Hands, inevitably produces Misery ; which emblematically represents, with the utmost Abhorrence and Reluctancy to humane Nature, the Subjects of a fine fertile Country groaning under the utmost Misery, to feed the avaricious Ambition of an Absolute Monarch ; nor do I believe the latter has more Power from Heaven, than the former has from your Honours, in so doing ; and as humane Policy will naturally take Care of the one, so I hope your Honours will rectify the other, after the following Regulations.

I. That all the Officers, even including the Writers, shall eat at the same Table, handsomely furnished at the Company's Expence, which might be done for less Charge than their Subsistence Money comes to ; whereas at pre-

sent every one, I mean Factors and Writers, eats, or I may rather say, starves by himself.

II. That there be another Table maintain'd at the Company's Charge, for the Tradesmen and Soldiers, with the inferior Officer, Serjeant, or Corporal, to see they observe due Discipline and Order.

III. That there be a Steward, a Man well known to the Country, set apart for furnishing this Table, with wholesome Provisions: That he may have sufficient Stores always breeding up, as he shall answer to the Members of the Council.

IV. That there be an Infirmary for the Sick, with proper Servants for attending them; which is wanting in all your Settlements, except *Cape Coast*.

V. That there be sufficient Stores of *European* Flower or Bisket, Wine, and other *European* Liquors, for the Supply of those that are well, as well as sick; and that they be strictly prohibited those never-failing Destroyers, the eating of *Cankee*, and drinking of Palm Wine, or Potoe.

VI. That

VI. That there be a Piece of Gardening Ground set a-part for a Nursery of Greens and Roots, &c. for their Use.

Now, Gentlemen, I have given you a true and impartial Account of what Observations occurred to me from my first Arrival on the Coast of *Africa* to my Departure from thence; and I hope your Honours and the World will have the Goodness to excuse the naked Dress they appear in, when I assure your Honours, from the Bottom of my Soul, that I had only the Interest of my Country in general, and the Royal *African* Company's in particular, at Heart, when I display what a glorious and advantageous Trade this is, and the Hinge on which all the Trade of this Globe turns, and how it might be center'd in *England*, to the great Honour and Advantage of the Nation, with proper Measures to remove what Obstructions and Hinderances it lies under at present; and at the same Time that I do my Country Service, I free my Character,

falsly

falsly attack'd, only to cloak Villany ;
 and, according to the old Proverb, *Lay
 the Saddle upon the right Horse* : And
 I can only assure your Honours of their
 Veracity, for an Excuse of Inelegancy,
 which I take for a full Discharge of the
 Duty I owe my Country, as a Subject
 of *Great Britain*, and a faithful Servant
 to the *Royal African Company*.





ADVERTISEMENT.

THERE is preparing for the Press,
*An Account of the Management of
the Directors of the Royal African Com-
pany of Great-Britain.* Humbly ad-
dress'd to His most Gracious Majesty
the KING, their Governour.

