

# A GEOGRAPHICAL HISTORIE of AFRICA,

*Written in Arabicke and Italian*

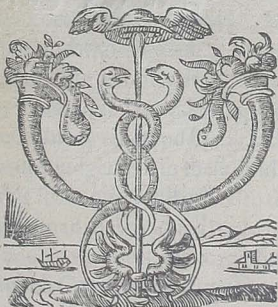
by IOHN LEO a More, borne  
in Granada, and brought up  
in Barbarie.

*Wherein he hath at large described, not onely the qualities, situations, and true distances of the regions, cities, townes, mountaines, riuers, and other places throughout all the north and principall partes of Africa; but also the descents and families of their kings, the causes and euents of their warres, with their manners, customes, religions, and ciuile gouernment, and many other memorable matters: gathered partly out of his owne diligent obseruations, and partly out of the ancient records and Chronicles of the Arabians and Moors.*

Before which, out of the best ancient and moderne writers, is prefixed a generall description of Africa, and also a particular treatise of all the maine lands and Isles vnderdescribed by *John Leo*.

*And after the same is annexed a relation of the great Princes, and the manifold religions in that part of the world.*

Translated and collected by IOHN PORY, lately  
of Goueuill and Caius College  
in Cambridge.



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1600

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE  
fir ROBERT CECIL Knight, principall  
*Secretarie to her Maiestie, Master of the*  
Court of Wardes and Liveryes, and one  
*of her Highnes most Honorable*  
*privie Counsell.*



O heere the first fruits, or rather the tender budde and blossomes of my labours. Which least in this their winterly sprouting they might perhaps by some bitter blasts of censure be frost-nipped, I humbly recommend to your Honorable protection.

Most due they are onely to your selfe, being for the greatest part nothing else, but a large illustration of certaine southern voiajes of the English, already dedicated to your Honour. And at this time especially I thought they would prooue the more acceptable: in that the Marocan ambassadour ( whose Kings dominions are heere most amplie and particularly described ) hath so lately treated with your Honour concerning matters of that estate.

Vouchsafe therefore ( right Honorable ) according to your accustomed humanitie towards learning, to accept of this Geographycall historie, in like manner as it pleased your Honour not long since most fauourable to take in good part those commendable indeuours of my reuerend friend M. *Richard Hakluyt*: who out of his mature iudgement in these studies, knowing the excellencie of this storie aboue all others in the same kinde, was the onely man that moued me to translate it.

At London this three and fortieth most  
ioifull Coronation-day of her  
sacred Maiestie.

1600.

*Your Honors alwaies most*

readie to be commanded

JOHN PORY.



*Give me leave (gentle Readers) if not to present unto your knowledge, because some perhaps may as well be informed as my selfe; yet to call to your remembrance, some few particulars, concerning this Geographicall Historie, and Iohn Leo the author thereof.*

*Who albeit by birth a More, and by religion for many yeeres a Mahumetan: yet if you consider his Parentage, Witte, Education, Learning, Emploiments, Trauels, and his conuersion to Christianitie; you shall finde him not altogether unfit to undertake such an enterprize; nor unworthy to be regarded.*

*First therefore his Parentage seemeth not to haue bin ignoble: seeing (as in his second booke himselfe testifieth) an vncle of his was so Honorable a person, and so excellent an Oratour and Poet; that he was sent as a principall Ambassadour, from the king of Fez, to the king of Tombuto.*

*And whether this our Author were borne at Granada in Spaine, (as it is most likely) or in some part of Africa; certaine it is, that in naturall sharpnes and viuacitie of Wit, he most liuely resembled those great and classically authours, Pomponius Mela, Iustinus Historicus, Columella, Seneca, Quintilian, Orosius, Prudentius, Martialis, Iuuenal, Auicenna, &c. reputed all for Spanish wrriers; as likewise Terentius Afer, Tertullian, Saint Augustine, Victor, Optatus, &c. knowne to be wrriers of Africa. But amongst great varietie which are to be found in the proesse of this notable discourse, I will heere lay before your view one onely patterne of his surpassing wit. In his second booke therefore, if you peruse the description of Mount Tenueues, you shall there finde the learned and sweete Arabian verses of Iohn Leo, not being then fully sixteene yeeres of age, so highly esteemed by the Prince of the same mountaine, that in recompence thereof, after bountifull entertainment, he dismissed him with gifts of great value.*

*Neither wanted he the best Education that all Barbarie could afford. For being euen from his tender yeeres trained up at the Vniuersitie of Fez, in Grammar, Poetrie, Rhetorick, Philosophie, Historie, Cabala, Astronomie, and other ingenious sciences, and hauing so great acquaintance and conuersation in the kings court: how could he choose but prooue in his kinde a most accomplished and absolute man? So as I may iustly say (if the comparison be tolerable) that as Moses was learned in all the wisdome of the Egyptians; so likewise was Leo in that of the Arabians and Moors.*

*And that he was not meanely, but extraordinarily learned; let me keepe silence, that the admirable fruits of his rare Learning, and this Geographicall Historie among the rest may beare record. Besides which, he wrote an Arabian Grammar,*

## To the Reader.

Grammar, highly commended by a great Linguist of Italie, who had the sight and examination thereof; as likewise a booke of the lives of the Arabian Philosophers; and a discourse of the religion of Mahumet; with diuers excellent Poems, and other monuments of his industrie, which are not come to light.

Now as concerning his Employments, were they not such as might well be seeme a man of good woorth? For (to omit how many courts and campes of princes he had frequented) did not he, as himselfe in his third booke witnesseth, personally serue king Mahumet of Fez in his wars against Arzilla? And was he not at another time, as appeereth out of his second Booke, in service and honorable place vnder the same king of Fez, and sent ambassadour by him to the king of Maroco? Yea, how often in regard of his singular knowledge and iudgement in the lawes of those countries, was he appointed, and sometimes constrained at diuers strange cities and townes through which he trauelled, to become a iudge and arbiter in matters of greatest moment?

Moreouer as touching his exceeding great Trauels, had he not at the first beene a Moree and a Mahumetan in religion, and most skilfull in the languages and customes of the Arabians and Africans, and for the most part trauelled in Catouans, or vnder the authoritie, safe conduct, and commendation of great princes: I maruell much how euer he should haue escaped so manie thousands of imminent dangers. And (all the former notwithstanding) I maruell much more, how euer he escaped them. For how many desolate cold mountaines, and huge drie, and barren deserts passed he? How often was he in hazard to haue beene captiued, or to haue had his throte cut by the prouling Arabians, and wilde Mores? And how hardly manie times escaped he the Lyons greedie mouth, and the deuouring iawes of the Crocodile? But if you will needes haue a briefe iournall of his trauels, you may see in the end of his eight booke, what he writeth for himselfe. Wherefore (saith he) if it shall please God to vouchsafe me longer life, I purpose to describe all the regions of Asia which I haue trauelled: to wit, Arabia Deserta, Arabia Peurea, Arabia Felix, the Asian part of Egypt, Armenia, and some part of Tartaria; all which countries I sawe and passed through in the time of my youth. Likewise I will describe my last voiajes from Constantinople to Egypt, and from thence vnto Italy, &c. Besides all which places he had also beene at Tauris in Persia: and of his owne country, and other African regions adioining and remote, he was so diligent a trauelley; that there was no kingdom, prouince, signorie, or citie; nor sturceltie any towne, village, mountaine, valley, riuer, or forrest, &c. which he left vnvisited. And so much the more credite and commendation deserueth this woorthy Historie of his; in that it is (except the antiquities, and certaine other incidents) nothing else but a large Itinerarium or Iournal of his African voiajes: neither describeth he almost any one parricular place, where himselfe had not sometime beene an eye-witnes.

But, not to forget His conuersion to Christianitie, amidst all these his busse and dangerous trauels, it pleased the diuine prouidence, for the discovery and manifestation of Gods wonderfull works, and of his dreadfull and iust iudgements performed

performed in Africa (which before the time of Iohn Leo, were either utterly concealed, or vnperfectly and fabulously reported both by ancient and late writers) to deliuer this author of ours, and this present Geographick Historie, into the hands of certaine Italian Pirates, about the isle of Gerbi, situate in the gulfe of Capes, betweene the cities of Tunis and Tripolis in Barbarie. Being thus taken, the Pirates presented him and his Booke vnto Pope Leo the tenth: who esteeming of him as of a most rich and inualluable prize, greatly reioiced at his arriual, and gaue him most kinde entertainment and liberall maintenance, till such time as he had woone him to be baptiz'd in the name of Christ, and to be called Iohn Leo, after the Popes owne name. And so during his abode in Italy, learning the Italian toong, he translated this booke therein, being before written in Arabick. Thus much of Iohn Leo.

Now let vs acquaint you with the Historie it selfe. First therefore from so woorthy an author, how could an historie proceed but of speciall woorth and consequence? For prooffe whereof, I appeale vnto the translations thereof into Latine, Italian, Spanish, French, English, and (if I be not deceiued) into some other languages; which argue a generall approbation of the same. I appeale also to the grand and most iudiciall Cosmographer \* Master Iohn Baptista Ramusius, sometime Secretarie to the state of Venice, who in the Preface to his first volume of voiajes, so highly commendeth it to learned Fracastoro, and placeth it euery word in the very forefront of his discourses, as the principal & most praise-worthy of the all. And were renowned Ortelius aline, I would vnder correction report me to him; whether his map of Barbarie and Biledulgerid, as also in his last Additament that of the kingdomes of Maroco and Fez, were not particularly and from point to point framed out of this present relation, which he also in two places at the least preferrieth farre before all other histories written of Africa. But to leaue the testimonies of others, and to come neerer to the matter it selfe; like as our prime and peerelesse English Antiquarie master William Camden in his learned Britannia, hath exactly described England, Scotland, Ireland, and the isles adiacent (the which by Leander for Italie, by Damianus a Goetz briefly for Spaine, by Belforest for France, by Munster for vpper Germanie, by Guiccardini for the Netherlandes, and by others for other countries hath bene performed) so likewise this our author Iohn Leo in the historie ensuing hath so largely, particularly, and methodically deciphered the countreies of Barbarie, Numidia, Libya, The land of Negros, and the higher part of Egypt, as (I take it) neuer any writer either before or since his time hath done. For if you shall thoroughly consider him, what kingdome, prouince, citie, towne, village, mountaine, vallie, riuer; yea, what temple, college, hospitall, bath-stone, Iune; or what other memorable matter doth he omit? So doth he most iudicially describe the temperature of the climate, and the nature of the soile, as also the dispositions, manners, rites, customes, and most ancient pedigrees of the inhabitants, together with the alterations of religion and estate, the conquests and ouerthrowes of the Romaines, Goths, and Arabians, and other things (by the way) right woorthie the obseruation. So that the  
Africans

\* Read pag. 58.  
of places vnder-  
scribed by Iohn  
Leo.

## To the Reader.

Africans may iustly say to him, and the English to master Camden, as the prince of Roman oratours did vnto Marcus Varro the learnedst of his nation. Nos in patria nostra peregrinantes errantesque tanquam hospites, tui libri quasi domum deduxerunt, vt possemus aliquando, qui & vbi essemus, agnoscere. Tu ætatem patriæ, tu descriptiones temporum, tu sacrorum iura, tu domesticam, tu bellicam disciplinam, tu sedem regionum & locorum, &c. *Which may thus be rudely Englished.* Wandring vp and downe like Pilgrimes in our owne native soile, thy bookes haue as it were led vs the right way home; that we might at length acknowledge both who and where we are. Thou hast reuealed the antiquitie of our nation, the order of times, the rites of our religion, our manner of gouernment both in peace and warre, yea thou hast described the situations of countries and places, &c.

Tull. Acad.  
quæst. lib.

Now as concerning the additions before and after this Geographick Historie; hauing had some spare-houers since it came first vnder the presse; I thought good (both for the Readers satisfaction, and that Iohn Leo might not appeere too solitary vpon the stage) to bestowe a part of them in collecting and digesting the same. The chiefe scope of this my enterprize is, to make a brieue and cursorie description of all those maine lands and isles of Africa, which mine author in his nine bookes hath omitted. For he in very deed leaueth vntouched all those parts of the African continent which lie to the south of the fiftene kingdomes of Negros, and to the east of Nilus. For the manifestation whereof; I haue (as truly as I could coniecture) in the mappe adioined to this booke, caused a list or border of small prickes to be engrauen; which running westward from the mouth of Nilus to The streights of Gibraltar, and from thence southward to the coast of Guinie, and then eastward to the banks of Nilus, and so northward to the place where it began; doth with aduantage include all places treated of by Leo, and excludeth the residue which by way of Preface we haue described before the beginning of his African historie. Likewise at the latter end I haue put downe certaine relations of the great Princes of Africa, and of the Christian, Iewish, Mahumetan, and Gentilish religions there professed. The Princes of greatest account either inhabiting or at least possessing large territories there, are first The grand Neguz or Christian Emperour of Abassia or the higher Ethiopia, commonly called Presbyter Iohn, or (as Zagazabo his owne ambassadour would haue him) Precious Iohn; but because throughout all the Ethiopick relation of Francis Aluarez, being the best that euer was writen of those parts, he is continually named Prete Ianni, in imitation of him I also most commonly call him by that name. And so likewise though Zagazabo (for the more magnificent reputation of his prince) will haue his dominions called Ethiopia; yet with the consent of some approoued authors, and also to distinguish the country of this emperour from many other regions situate both in the higher Ethiopia, and in the lower; I haue set it downe in my mappe, and in my discourses do most vsually speake thereof vnder the name of Abassia. The other great Princes intreated of in the said relations, are The K. of Spaine, The Turkish Emperour, The \* Xarifo otherwise called The Miramonin, or the king of

The varietie of this emperours names read in a marginall note Pag. 12. of places vndercribed by Iohn Leo.

\* Or Xerifo, or Serifo.

Maroco

# To the Reader.

Maroco Sus and Fez, and the emperour of Monomotapa.

*My methode in the discourse before Leo is, after a generall preface of Africa, to begin at the Red sea, where Leo enderth; and thence (as well in the description of the maine lands, as of the isles by him vntouched) to proceed on southerly to the cape of Buena esperanza; from which cape we returne toward the north, describing all along the westerne countries and isles of Africa, till we haue brought our whole descriptions to an end vpon the most southwesterly parts of Barbarie, where our author Iohn Leo beginneth his.*

*Et quoniam (as one saith) turpe non est, per quos profeceris, agnoscere: my principall authors out of whom I haue gathered this store, are, of the ancienter note, Ptolemei, Strabo, Plinie, Diodorus Siculus, &c. and amongst later writers, I haue helped my selfe out of sundrie discourses in the first Italian volume of Baptista Ramulio, as likewise out of Iohn Barros, Castaneda, Ortelius, Oforius de reb. gest. Eman. Matthew Dresserus, Quadus, Isolario del mundo, Iohn Huighen van Linschoten, & out of the Hollanders late voiaiges to the east Indies, and to San Tomé: but I am much more beholding to the history of Philippo Pigafetta, to the Ethiopick relations of Francis Aluarez, & of Damianus a Goetz, and beyond all comparison (both for matter and method) most of all, to the learned Astronomer and Geographer Antonius Maginus of Padua, and to the vniuersall relations written in Italian by G. B. B.*

*And heere, before I surcease, I must admonish the Reader of certaine faults escaped in some copies: as namely in the description of the isles in the Barbarian bay, Açotatado, for Açotado; in a marginall note ouer against the description of Tombuto in the seuenth booke of Iohn Leo, Money for Gold; in the relation of the Christianitie of Egypt, Hypostafis twise togither, in stead of Hypostafes; and in the discourse of the Christianitie of Congo, Paulo Aquitino, for Panso Aquitimo. Other liuerall faults (if there be any) will nor be hard for the Reader himselfe to amend.*

# AFRICA



A generall description of all Africa, together  
with a comparison of the ancient and new  
names of all the principall countries  
and prouinces therein.



That part of inhabited land extending southward, which we call Africa, and the Greeks Libya, is one of the three generall parts of the world known vnto our ancestors; which in very deed was not throughly by them discovered; both bicause the Inlands could not be trauielled in regard of huge deserts full of dangerous sands, which being driuen with the winde, put trauielers in extreme hazard of their liues; and also by reason of the long and perilous nauigation vpon the African coasts, for which cause it was by very few of ancient times compassed by nauigation, much lesse searched or intirely known. Of which few, the principall were *Hanno* a Carthaginian captaine sent by the gouernours of that commonweith for discouerie of the saide lande, and one *Endoxus* that fled from *Ptolemæus Labyrinthus*, the king of Alexandria. Howbeit in these latter times it hath bene often \* by the Portugals sailed round about, and diligently searched, especially along the shore, euen from the streights of Gibraltar to the enterance of the red sea: \*but the first Portugall that euer doubled the cape of Buena esperança, and coasted the south and southeast parts of Africa, in former times vnknowne, was *Vasco da Gama*, in the yeere 1497. who from hence sailed to Calicut in the east Indies, to the vspeakeable gaine of the Portugals.

To omit *Iohn Leo* his etymologies of this name Africa; *Festus* will haue it to be deriued from the Greeke worde *φειν*, which signifieth horror or colde, and from *α* the particle priuatiue, as who shoulde say, Africa is a place free from all horror and extremitie of colde, bicause it lieth open to the heauens, and is sandie, drie, and desert. Others say that it is called Africa *quasi Aprica*, that is exposed and subiect to the scorching beames of the sunne, the most part there of lying betweene the Tropicks. *Iosephus* will haue it so called from *Afer* one of the posteritie of *Abraham*, and others from *Afer* sonne to *Hercules* of Libya. But it was by the Greekes called Libya, bicause it was in old time conquered by *Libs* the king of Mauritania. In the holie Scriptures it is called *Chamefis*, by the Arabians and Ethiopians *Alkebulam*, and by the Indians *Befecath*.

In situation & shape this land of Africa is almost an isle, being by a very small and narrow neckland (passing betweene the Mediterranean sea and the gulfe of Arabia, alias the red sea) conioined to Asia, and in extension of

Africa otherwise called Libya.

The greater part of Africa vnknown in former ages.

When Africa was sailed round about.

\* And since also by the English, French, and Dutch.

\* Bartholomew Dias doubled the cape before; but returned fearefully without proceeding any farther.

The etymologie or derivation of this worde Africa.

Why Africa was called Libya.

The situation and shap of Africa.

ground being almost twice as bigge as Europe, albeit for inhabitants it is not halfe so populous. Wherefore though in longitude from west to east Africa be shorter then Europe in some places, yet extendeth it so farre vnto the south, that Europe in that respect is nothing comparable vnto it: for Africa containeth almost seuentie degrees in latitude, whereas Europe stretcheth but fise and thirtie degrees: moreouer Africa is more vniforme and spacious; but Europe is of a more distracted and manifolde shape, being in sundry places dispersed & restrained by the sea. Howbeit notwithstanding Africa hath farre greater extension of ground then Europe, yet is it not so populous, nor so commodious to inhabite: for the lande of Africa is in many places vnhabitable; the principall causes whereof are, the scarcitie of water, the barrennes of the soile, being either couered with vnprofitable sande, dust, or ashes, or else being subiect to extreme heate of the sunne: also there are certaine dangerous heapes of sande, which being raised by the winde, are driuen vp and downe like the waues of a tempestuous sea: In brieue, there are such abundance of venomous and hurtfull creatures, that for feare of them the land in some places can very hardly, & in others by no meanes be manured or inhabited, be it neuer so fruitfull. Wherefore in diuers parts this region lieth waste and vnpeopled: howbeit where it is inhabited, it is exceeding fertile, and that especially in the north parts thereof, lying ouer against Europe, where (according to the report of many historiographers, and cosmographers) it was in ancient times abundantly furnished with inhabitants: so likewise all the westerne coast betweene Cabo de buena esperanza, and Cabo Negro situate about nineteene degrees of southerly latitude, containeth many plaines, hills, vallies, and other places most fruitfull and pleasant, it being there a continuall spring, and elsewhere also it is verie fertile, as it shall be declared more at large in the particular descriptions of each region.

The Equinoctiall circle doth in a manner diuide Africa in the verie midst thereof; from whence it stretcheth not onely to each tropique, but also fouelue degrees almost beyond them both: wherefore the greater part is comprized betweene the saide Tropiques vnder the Torrid or burnt Zone, for which onely cause the ancient writers supposed it to be vnhabitable and desert in so many places: which indeed is much rather to be ascribed to the waste wildernesse, the barren and sandie soile, and the scarcitie of waters and fountaines. It comprehendeth therefore fully and perfectly the three first northerly climates, and so many and the like climates southerly; for it is situate betweene the eleuenth north Parallele, and the eleuenth Antiparallele, or south Parallele, both which are equally distant from the Equinoctiall on either side. But about either of the foresaid extremes, the longest day consisteth of fouerteene howers and one fourth part, and about the midst, of twelue howers exactly. Likewise as touching the longitude, Africa stretcheth from the Meridian vnder fower degrees to the Meridian vnder fower-score and two degrees of longitude, to wit, from Cabo Roxo, or the

*A comparison  
betweene Africa  
and Europe.*

*The causes why  
Africa is so  
sparsely inhabi-  
ted.*

*Sandie seas in  
Africa,*

*The position of  
Africa, accord-  
ing to the hea-  
uens.*

Red cape on the west, to Cape Guardafu on the east side, betweene which two capes is the greatest bredth of Africa.

Africa hath too narrow boundes allotted vnto it by *Iohn Leo* and certaine others, for they disioine the greater part of Egypt and all Ethiopia there-from. Wherefore it is more conuenient in this behalfe to follow *Ptolemey*, and the late writers, limiting the same on the north with the Mediterranean sea, and the streights of Gibraltar; on the east with the Red sea or the Arabian gulfe, and the small neckland of Asia passing betweene the Mediterranean sea, and the said gulfe; on the south (at the cape of Buena esperança, where it endeth in forme of a wedge) with the maine Ocean partly called the Ethiopian sea, as being neere vnto the land of Ethiopia; and on the west, from the hither side of the Equinoctiall line, with the Atlantike Ocean, (called by *Ptolemey* *Mare Occiduum*, by *Dionysius* *Hesperium*, and part thereof by the Spaniards *Mar del Norte*) but beyond the Equinoctiall line it is bounded westward with the Ethiopian sea.

Africa hath very many and most exceeding great mountaines, the principal wherof is Mount-Atlas, whose tops of incredible height rising out of the midst of sandy desertes, exalt themselues aboue the cloudes. This mountaine beginneth westward at that place, where it distinguisheth the Ocean by the name of Atlanticus: from whence by a perpetuall ridge, after many windings and turnings, it extendeth east toward the confines of Egypt: moreouer it is in most places rounde, hard to ascend, craggie, steepe, impassable; cold, barren, shadie, and euery where full of woods and fountaines, with cloudes alwaies houering about the tops thereof, being forlorn and desolate toward the Ocean, but ouer against\* Africa minor, most fertile, and abounding with plentie of corne and of thick woods which are clad with a kinde of mosse no whit inferior to silke.

The tops of this mountaine are covered with deepe snowes euen in the midst of sommer: and sometimes when the North winds blow any thing sharpe, the snow falleth in such abundance, that it hideth the trees growing vpon the sides therof, and is deadly both to man and beast.

Moreouer the fountaines which are here found, are so extreame cold in the hottest of sommer, as if a man should dip his hand therein but for a short space, it would loose both life, sence, and motion. Besides Mount Atlas those mountaines likewise are very famous, which being situate on the south part of Africa, are called by the Portugales *Os Picos fragosos*: for by reason of their surpassing height and craggie cliffes it is impossible to skale them, and they are bare, forlorne, and destitute of all reliefe.

Likewise the cape commonly called *Sierra Leona* is as it were framed out of an exceeding high mountaine, which may be kennaed a mightie distance off: the top of this mountaine is continuallie ouershadowed with cloudes, which often send forth dreadfull thunder and lightening: whereupon some think it to haue bin called by *Ptolemey*, and by *Hanno* of Carthage, *The chariot of the gods*.

*The boundes of Africa.*

*The mountaines of Africa.*

*Mount Atlas.*

\* *The prouinces of Temizen, Alger, Bugia, Constantina, and Tunis.*

*Extreme cold fountaines.*

*Mountaines called Os Picos fragosos: that is to say, sharpe pointed. Iohn Barros: Dec. I. lib. 8. cap. 4.*

*Luna montes.*

The mountaines of the moone also, known of old, and situate vnder the Tropique of Capricorne, being very high and craggie, are inhabited by barbarous and sauage people, nere vnto which are valleis of such exceeding depth, as if they reached to the center of the earth. Likewise there are certain mountaines in Angola called Cabambe containing most rich siluer-mines, &c.

*The lake of Zembre, which by some others is placed vnder the Equinoctiall.*

Also in Africa are certaine mightie lakes, which for their extension seem rather to be seas, the principal wherof called by some Zembre, being situate by a number of huge mountaines, and distant from the Equinoctial eleuen or twelue degrees to the south, containeth about siue hundred leagues in compasse, out of which lake doe spring the famous riuers of Nilus, Zaire, and Cuama, and some affirme very strange sea-monsters to be therein.

*The riuers of Africa.*

Africa likewise hath many exceeding great riuers, as namely Nilus, Niger, Senaga, Gamba, Zaire, Abagni, Tagassi, Coluez, Coauo, Cuama, and Maniche, or Rio del Spirito santo, all which are in a manner of the same qualitie and disposition; for with their yeerlie inundations they doe most wonderfullie fatten and enrich the soile of the territories adioyning. Nilus the most famous riuer of the world, diuiding Egypt in the midst, and with his ouerfloues making it most fruitfull, continueth in his yeerely increafe fortie daies, and forty daies in decrease; to wit, from the seuateenth of Iune to the sixt of October: and this riuer after a mightie long course through Ethiopia and Egypt, dischargeth his streames into the Mediterran sea. The riuer of Niger, running through the land of Negros, called of old (as Solinus supposed) by the naturall inhabitants Astabus, and (according to Marmolius) Hued Nijar in the Arabian tounge, is now esteemed by Paulus Iouius to be Gamba, and by Cadamosta the riuer of Senaga; but that both of them are deceiued, it is euident out of the description of Sanutus, who putteth downe the two foresaid riuers seuerallie, and thinketh Niger to be that which is now called Rio grande. This riuer taketh his beginning, as some thinke, out of a certain desert to the east, called Seu, or springeth rather out of a lake, and after a long race, falleth at length into the western Ocean. It increaseth also, for the space of fortie daies like Nilus, and is for so long space decreasing about the verie same time; by which inundation it bringeth such fruitfulness vnto all the land of Negros (certain mountaines onely excepted) as no place in the world can be imagined more fertile. Senaga or Canaga, a most notable riuer, called, as some thinke, Baratis by Ptolemy, and for the length therof, and manifold strange creatures therein contained, comparable to Nilus, seuereth by his winding chanel the barren and naked soile, from the greene and fruitfull. Moreouer it maketh a separation betweene nations of sundrie colours: for the people on this side are of a dead ash-colour, leane, and of a small stature; but on the farther side they are exceeding blacke, of tall and manly stature, and very well proportioned: howbeit nere vnto the riuer on either side, they are of a meane colour, complexion, and stature betweene both the aboue mentioned. It falleth

*Nilus.**Niger.*

into

into the sea by two mouthes, the principall whereof is about a mile broad, vp into the which the sea entreth almost 60. miles. It springeth (according to *John Barros*) out of two lakes (the greater whereof is now called the lake of Gaoga, but heretofore by *Ptolemy Chelonida paludes*, and the lesser *Ptolemy* calleth *Nuba palus*) as also out of a riuer named by *Ptolemy* Ghir. This riuer of Senaga hath great variety of strange fishes, and other creatures that liue in the water, as namely, sea-horses, crocodiles, winged serpents, and such like: neere vnto it also are great store of Elephants, wilde bores, lions, and leopards. Gambia or Gambia a very great riuer, lying betweene Senaga and Niger, and esteemed by *Sanutus* to be that which *Ptolemy* called Stachir, fetcheth his originall from the lake of Libya, and from the fountaines which *Ptolemy* assigneth to the riuer of Niger: this riuer in greatnes and depth exceedeth Senaga, and hath many vnknowne riuers falling thereinto, and bringeth foorth all kindes of liuing creatures that Senaga doth. In the midst of this riuer standeth the Isle of Elephants, so called, in regarde of great numbers of those beasts. The riuer Zaire beginneth out of the same lake from whence Nilus springeth: this being one of the greatest riuers of all Africa, and vtterly vnknowne vnto ancient writers, containeth at the mouth eight and twentie miles in bredth, hauing a very safe harbour for ships to ride in: also there are many and great Islands in the chanel thereof, and sundrie riuers do fall thereinto, the principall whereof are Vumba, Barbela, Coanza, and Lelunda: in brieft, this riuer Zaire running through the kingdome of Congo, disgorgeth it selfe into the maine Ethiopian sea. Out of the same lake, which is the very fountaine of Nilus, springeth another notable and famous riuer, which after a long race toward the south and east, is diuided into two branches: the northerly branch, which is exceeding great (for it receiueth fixe great riuers thereinto, and is nauigable for the space of seuen hundred miles) being properly called Cuama, and the other branch more southerly, which is verie great also, being named Manich or Magnice, or Rio del Spirito santo.

The promontories, capes, or headlands of Africa be verie many, the most famous and principal wherof are, The cape of Buena esperança, or good hope, Cabo verde, and Cabo de los corrientes. The cape of Buena esperança or good hope is the extreame southerly point of all Africa, being a most renowned and dangerous promontorie, which in the yeere one thousand foure hundred nintie seuen was the second time discouered by Vasco da Gama at the commandement of Don Emanuel king of Portugal: this cape the mariners were wont to cal the lion of the Ocean, and the tempestuous cape, by reason of the ruffling and roring of the windes, which they found there for the most part very boisterous: for the sea thereabout is exceeding rough, by reason of the continual fury of the windes; neither will any nauigatours touch vpon the cape, except they be enforced by meere necessitie. Cabo verde or The greene head-land, is esteemed by some to be the same

*These two riuers of Senaga and Gambia are not certainly known, whether they be maine riuers of themselves, or branches and mouthes of Niger.*

*The isle of Elephants.*

*These two riuers of Cuama and Magnice (according to Philippo Pigafetta) spring both out of the great lake and are not branches of one riuer.*

*The promontories or capes of Africa. Cabo de buena esperança.*

*Cabo verde.*

Cabo de los cor-  
rientes.

side by the riuers of Senega and Gamba. Cabo de los corrientes, other-  
wise called the cape of San Sebastian, stretcheth foorth it selfe right ouer  
against the south end of the great Isle of Madagascar: it is a cape well  
knowne, by reason it is so dangerous to double, which the Moores durst not  
passe for a very long time.

And heere as concerning the strange beasts, fishes, serpents, trees, plants,  
and roots of Africa, as likewise touching the diseases, whereto the African  
people are most subiect; and the varietie of languages (excepting the Chal-  
dæan, Egyptian, Turkish, Italian, and Spanish tongues) which are now and  
haue beene of ancient times spoken in Africa; I refer the Reader to the first  
and last bookes of *John Leo*, and to other places, where they are at large and  
purposefully intreated of.

The inhabi-  
tants of Africa.

The diversitie  
of religions in  
Africa.

Moreouer this part of the worlde is inhabited especially by five princi-  
pall nations, to wit, by the people called Casri or Cafates, that is to say out-  
lawes, or lawlesse, by the Abassins, the Egyptians, the Arabians, and the  
Africans or Moores, properly so called; which last are of two kinds, namely  
white or tawnie Moores, and Negros or blacke Moores. Of all which na-  
tions some are Gentiles which worship Idols; others of the sect of Mahu-  
met; some others Christians; and some Iewish in religion; the greatest  
part of which people are thought to be descended from *Cham* the cursed  
son of *Noah*; except some Arabians of the linage of *Sem*, which afterward  
passed into Africa. Now the Arabians inhabiting Africa are diuided into  
many severall kinds, possessing diuers and sundrie habitations and regions;  
for some dwell neere the sea shore, which retain the name of Arabians;  
but others inhabiting the inland, are called Baduini. There bee likewise  
infinite swarmes of Arabians, which with their wiues and children, leade a  
vagrant and roguish life in the deserts, vsing tents in stead of houses: these  
are notable theues, and very troublesome both to their neighbour-inhabi-  
tants, and also to merchants: for which cause trauellers and merchants dare  
not passe ouer the African deserts alone, but onely in Carouans, which are  
great companies of merchants riding, and transporting their goods vpon  
their camels and asses: who go very strong, and in great numbers, for feare  
of the said theuish Arabians.

The ancient di-  
uision of Africa  
by Ptolemy;  
and a compari-  
son of the anti-  
ent with the  
moderne names.

*Ptolemy* in his fourth booke of Geography diuideth Africa into twelue  
regions or prouinces: namely, Mauritania Tingitana, Mauritania Cæsari-  
ensis, Numidia, Africa propria, Cyrenaica, Marmarica, Libya propria,  
AEgyptus superior, AEgyptus inferior, Libya interior, AEthiopia sub  
AEgypto, & AEthiopia interior.

Mauritania  
Tingitana, be-  
ing all one with  
the kingdomes  
of Marocco and  
Per.

Mauritania Tingitana, the most rich and beautifull countrey of Africa,  
so named of the citie Tingis, which we at this day call Tanger, was some-  
times also (as *Plinie* witnesseth) called Borgundiana: moreouer others haue  
called it by the names of Mauritania Sitiphensis, Hispania Transfretana,  
and Hispania Tingitana: but *Solinus* termeth the same Mauritania inferior.  
The inhabitants were of old named by the Græcians Maurusij, and by the  
Romaines

Romaines Mauri, but the Spaniards at this present terme them Alarabes. In this part of Africa are now contained two stately kingdomes, namely the kingdome of Maroco, and the kingdome of Fez; both which are enuironed with the mountaines of Atlas, the Ocean and the Mediterran seas, and to the east with the riuer of Muluia.

Mauritania Cæsariensis, named according to the cite of Cæsaria, which was so called after the name of *Claudius Cæsar*, at this present bearing the name of Tiguident or Tegdent, which worde in the Arabian toong signifieth ancient; was by *Victor Vitensis*, termed Mauritania maior; by *Strabo* Massilia, and Massæilia, and the inhabitants thereof by *Plinie* Massæfuli. At this present it containeth the kingdome of Tremizen, as *Domimas Niger*, and *Girana* are of opinion.

*Mauritania Cæsariensis* called at this present Tremizen, and Alger.

Numidia the ancient, called in the time of *Ptolomey*, The new, but by the Greekes (as *Plinie* testifieth) Metagonitis, and the inhabitants thereof Numidæ, and Nomades; is that region which lieth betweene The great riuer, and the riuer Megerada, ouer which countrey king *Masinissa* bare rule. It containeth now (as I coniecture) the prouinces of Bugia, Constantina, Bona, and Mezzab. Howbeit at this present we vnderstande by Numidia that region which lieth betweene the mountaines of Atlas and the Libyan deserts, called by *John Leo* and *Marmolius* Biledulgerid, or the lande of Dates, because this is the onely region for plentie of Dates, in all Africa.

*Numidia the ancient*, containing Bugia, Constantina, Bona, Mezzab, &c.

Africa propria, situate vpon the Mediterran sea, betweene the regions of old Numidia, and the Cyrene, is called by *Plinie* Zeugitania, who diuideth it into the ancient and the new. At this present it is the kingdome of Tunis, for it containeth Byzacium, which by *Strabo* is accounted a part of Africa propria. The head of this prouince in times past was Carthage, whereof at this present there are nothing but ruines extant.

*Africa propria* all one with the kingdome of Tunis.

Cyrene, or Cyrenaica, by *Plinie* called Pentapolis, and by the Hebrews Lebahim, is esteemed by *Girana* to be at this present called Corene, and by *Andrew Theuet*, Assadib: but *John Leo* and *Marmolius* name it Mefrata.

*Cyrene now* called Mefrata.

Marmarica is called by *Plinie* Mareotis, and Libya: howbeit at this present the desert of Barcha, described by *John Leo* in his sixth booke, containeth a great part of Cyrenaica, and all Marmarica.

*Marmarica* comprehended in the desert of Barcha.

But Libya propria, retaineth till this present the name of Libya, and is that part which the Arabians call Sarra, which worde signifieth a desert.

*Libya propria*, called Sarra.

Both the ancient Ethiopias are now possessed by the Abassins, vnder the dominion of *Prete Ianni*.

*Ethiopia, now* called Abassia.

Egypt retaineth euen till this day, the ancient name.

The best moderne diuision of Africa, for these our times is to adde vnto the foure general partes, Barbaria, Numidia, Libya, and the land of Negros, set downe by *John Leo*, three other generall partes to wit, Egypt; the inner or the vpper Ethiopia, containing Troglodytica, Nubia, and the empire of *Prete Ianni*; and the lower, or the extreme Ethiopia, stretching from the

said

saide empire along the sea-coast, and through the Inland euen to the Cape of Buena Esperança.

Thus much of Africa in generall. Now it remaineth that we briefly describe in particular all the principall maine landes, and islands, (vndescribed by *John Leo*) which thereto belong, or adioyne; beginning first with the Red sea one of the chiefe limites of Africa, and from thence shaping our course along the easterne or farthest quarters thereof, through the dominions of *Prete Ianni*, the lande of Zanguebar, the empires of Mohenemuge, and Monomotapa, and the region of Cafraria: and then, hauing doubled the cape of Buena esperança, range we along the westerne partes by the kingdomes of Angola, Congo, Anzichi, Benin, Ghinea, and by the capes of Sierra Leona, Capo verde, and the castle of Arguin, till we haue brought our selues to finish our course, vpon the most southwestern partes of Barbarie, from whence our author *John Leo* beginneth his.

A particular description of all the knowne borders, coastes and inlands of Africa, which *John Leo* hath left vndescribed: collected out of sundry ancient and late writers.

*Of the red sea.*

**T**He red sea called by others the Arabian gulfe, and the streight of Mecha, containing in length twelue hundred miles, and in bredth but one hundred, is deuided into three partitions or chanel; the middlemost whereof being called The large or deepe sea, is without danger nauigable both day and night, because it hath from siue and twentie to fiftie fathomes water, especially from the isle of Camaran euen to Suez stāding at the very bottome of the gulfe: the other two partitions, which are the easterne and westerne extremities, are incumbred with so manie litle isles and rockes, as it is impossible to saile ouer them but onely by day-light, and with most expert pilots, which are to be hired at a small island lying ouerthwart the very mouth or entrance of the red sea; which the ancient kings of Egypt (if the report of *Strabo* be true) barred with a chaine, from the African, to the Arabian side. This sea is very skarce of fish; perhaps because there fall no riuers thereinto, which with their fresh and sweete waters doe much delight and nourish the fish; and the strand or shore thereof is destitute of all greene grasse, herbes, or weedes. The portes and hauens of this sea are for the most part very dangerous and difficult to enter, by reason of the manifold windings and turnings, which must be made, to auoide the rockes.

*This isle I take to be Babel-mandel.*

*Suez called of olde Heroum ciuitas, and Hazion Geber.*

At the very head or North end of this gulfe, standeth Suez, which heretofore seemeth to haue bin called Ciuitas Heroum, and in the times of *Dauid* and *Salomon* Hazion-Geber, from whence the fleets of those partes

were sent to Ophir for golde and other rich commodities. Vnder the Egyptian Ptolemeys and the Romans, this towne flourished exceedingly, by reason of the infinite quantitie of merchandize brought thither from the east Indies, and Arabia. But now it is nothing so frequented; partly in regard of the mighty concurse and traffique which Mecha draweth vnto it selfe, and partly by reason of the Portugales conueiance of spices and other Indian commodities about the cape of Buena esperança. At this present the great Turke hath there an Arsenale, with certaine gallies, for feare of the Portugals aforesaid: against whome there haue bin dispatched from this place two greate fleetes, one for the assailing of Diu, and another for Ormuz. Howbeit because all the countries round about are vtterly destitute of wood, it is a matter of infinite charge to furnish foorth a flete from hence; for they are constrained to fetch their timber as far as Caramania, partly by sea, and partly vpon camels backs. At this towne of Suez they haue no fresh water; but all their water is brought them from a place fixe miles distant vpon camels backs, being notwithstanding brackish and bitter.

*Arsenale signifieth a storehouse for munition, and for all necessaries to build, repaire, and furnish a flete.*

The western shore of the Red sea is inhabited with people called in old time Troglodytæ, which at this present do all of them yeelde obedience to the great Turke: who considering, that the fleets of the Portugales entered very often into the Red sea, and were there receiued by the subiects of Prete Gianni, and did him great damage; hath thereupon taken occasion not onely to conquer the Troglodytæ, but also to waite and subdue a great part of Barnagasso, the most Northerlie prouince of the said Prete. So that the audacious attempts of the Portugales in those partes haue bred two most dangerous and bad effects; the one is, that the Arabians haue most strongly fortified all their sea-townes, which before lay naked and without fortification; the other, for that the Turke also hath bin occasioned thereby to make warre against the Prete. Wherefore they ought not to haue vnderaken any such enterprize, but with full resolution and sufficient forces to accomplish the same: for lesser attempts serue to no other end, but onely to rouze and arme the enemie, which was before secure and quiet.

*Troglodytæ were a people that lived in caues vnder the earth to auoide the extrem heat, being deriued από τῶν τρυγῶν τῶν πετρωδῶν. A great part of Barnagasso subdued by the Turke.*

Neither is it heere to be omitted, that in the foresaide sea, a man can faile in no ships nor barks, but only those of the great Turke, or at least with his licence, paying vnto him for tribute a good part of the freight. For this purpose he hath certaine Magazines or store-houses of timber, which is brought partly from the gulfe of Satalia, and partly from Nicomedia, and other places vpon the Euxin sea, vnto Rosetto and Alexandria; from whence it is afterward transported to Cairo, and thence to Suez.

This sea is called the Red sea, not in regard that the waters thereof be all red, but (as some thinke) from certaine red rushes which growe vpon the shore: and (as others are of opinion) from a kinde of red earth which in sundry places it hath at the bottome: which earth dieth not the very substance of the water red, but by transparence causeth it (especially neere the shore) to appeere of that colour.

*Africa*

*Africa Troglodytica.*

**T**Hat sandie, barren, and desert part of Africa which lieth betweene Nilus and the Red sea, especially to the south of the tropike, was in old times inhabited by the Troglodytæ, a people so called, because of their dwelling in caues vnder the ground. Along this westerne coast of the Red sea runneth a ridge of mountaines, which being an occasion that the inland riuers can not fall into the saide sea, they are forced to discharge themselves into Nilus. The foresaide mountaines and sea coast are now inhabited by Mahumetans, being partly Arabians, and partly Turkes: which not many yeeres ago haue attempted to saile that sea, and to inuade the regions adioining. The naturall inhabitants are a rude barbarous people, and very poore and beggerly. The chiefe places of habitation are Corondol, a speciall good porte; Alcosser a place well knowne, because that neere vnto it the saide mountaines open themselves, and giue passage to the bringing in of the fruits and commodities of Abassia; Suachen esteemed one of the principall ports in all the streights, and being made by an island. Here resideth the Bassa of the great Turke, which is called the gouernour of Abassia, with three thousand soldiers or thereabout.

Next followeth Ercoco the onely hauentowne of the *Prete*, lying ouer against the little isle of Mazua: and heere the mountaines make an other opening or passage, for transporting of victuals out of the lande of the saide *Prete Janni*. From hence almost to the very entrance of the Red sea, the coast is at this present vnhabited, forlorne, and desert. Likewise from Suachen to Mazua is a continuall woode, the trees whereof are but of small woorth. Iust within the saide entrance standeth the towne and port of Vela, vnder the iurisdiction of the king of Dancali a Moore.

Vpon all this west shore of the Red sea, as likewise vpon the contrary east shore, scarcitie of water is the cause, why there are so fewe, and so small places of habitation: and the people runne and flocke together, where they may finde any pit or fountaine of water.

Some curious reader might here expect, because I haue nowe passed so neere the frontiers of Egypt, that I should make an exact description of that most famous and fruitfull prouince, and likewise of the great city of Alcair, and of the inundation and decrease of Nilus: all which, because they are expressed in most orient & liuelie colours by our author *Iohn Leo*; I should shew my selfe both iniurious to him, and tedious to all iudiciall readers, in anticipating and forestalling that, before the beginning of his booke, which he so neere the end doth in such large and particular wise intreate of. Now therefore let vs proceed to the vpper or inner Ethiopia, beginning with the first and most northerly prouince thereof called Nubia.

Nubia.



Passing therefore westward from the Island of Siene, you enter into the prouince of Nubia, bordering on the west vpon Gaoga, eastward vpon the riuer Nilus, towards the North, vpon Egypt, and southward vpon the desert of Goran. The inhabitants thereof called by *Strabo Nēca*, liue at this present (as *Francisco Aluarez* reporteth) a most miserable and wretched kinde of life: for hauing lost the sinceritie and light of the gospel, they do embrace infinite corruptions of the Iewish and Mahumetan religions. At the same time when the foresaid *Aluarez* was in Abassia, there came certaine messengers out of Nubia, to make suit vnto the *Preere*, that he would send them priests, and such persons as might preach and administer the sacraments vnto them. But he returned answer, that he coule not in regard of the scarcitie of great cler-giemen in his dominions: The said messengers reported, that the Nubians had sent often to Rome for a bishop; but being afterward by the inuasions of the Moores and the calamitie of warre, cut short of that assistance, they fell for want of teachers and ministers, into extreme ignorance of Christian religion, and by little and little were infected with the impious and abominable sects of the Iewes and Mahumetans. Some Portugals traouiling to those parts, sawe many churches destroyed by the handes of the Arabians, and in some places the pictures of saints painted vpon the wals. They are gouerned by women, and call their Queene *Gana*. Their principall citie called Dangala, and consisting of about ten thousand houtholds, is a place of great traffike, because it is so neere vnto Egypt and the riuer Nilus. All their other habitations are villages and base cottages. Their houses are built of claie, and covered with strawe. The chiefe commodities of this region are rice, stone-sugar, sanders, iuorie, (for they take many elephants) as likewise abundance of ciuet, and golde in great plentie. The countrey is for the most part sandie: howbeit there are certaine mightie lakes, by the benefite whereof a great part of Nubia is wated and made fruitfull.

Dangala the  
head citie of  
Nubia.

The Isle of Meroe.

**M**eroe called at this time by the names of Guengare, Amara, and Nobe, being the greatest and fairest isle which Nilus maketh, and resembled by *Herodorus* to the shape of a target, containeth in bredth a thousand, and in length three thousand stadios or furlongs. It aboundeth with golde, siluer, copper, iron, Eben-wood, palme-trees, and other such commodities as are in Nubia. Some write, that there growe canes or reeds of so huge a bignes, that the people make botes of them. Heere also you haue minerall salt, and lions, elephants, and leopards. This island is inhabited by Mahumetans, who are confederate with the Moores  
against

against *Prete Ianni*. *Strabo* affirmeth, that in old time the authoritie of the priests of this island was so great, that by a meane and ordinarie messenger they would command the king to murder himselfe, and would substitute an other in his roome. But at length, one king hauing in a certaine temple put all the saide priests to death, quite abolished that monstrous custome. And heere as Nilus vnfoldeth himselfe into two branches, to embrace this Islande, he receiuet from the east the riuer of Abagni, and from the west the riuer Sarabotto, which haue likewise other smaller riuers falling into them. The Abassins are of opinion, that the *Queene of Saba*, which travelled so farre to heare the wisdom of *Salomon*, was mistresse of this isle. *Paulus Ionius* saith, here are three kings, one a Gentile, the second a Moore, and the third a Christian, subiect vnto the *Prete*. From Meroe to Siene it is accounted fifteene daies iourney by water.

\* *Abassia, or the empire of Prete Ianni.*

\* Or *Aethiopia* the higher.

**T**HE Abassins are a people subiect to \* *Prete Ianni*: whose empire (if we consider the stile which he vseth in his letters) hath most ample confines. For he intituleth himselfe emperour of the great and higher Ethiopia, king of Goame, which (as *Botero* supposeth) is situate betweene Nilus and Zaire; of Vangue a kingdome beyond Zaire; of Damut which confineth with the land of the Anzichi; and towards the south he is called king of Cafate and Bagamidri, two prouinces bordering vpon the first great lake, which is the originall fountaine of Nilus; as likewise of the kingdomes of Xoa, Fatigar, Angote, Baru, Baaliganze, Adea, Amara, Ambea, Vaguc, Tigremahon, Sabaim, where the *Queene of Saba* gouerned, and lastly of \* *Barnagacs*, and lorde as farre as Nubia, which bordereth vpon Egypt. But at this present the center or midst of his Empire (as *Iohn Barros* writeth) is the lake of Barcena. For it extendeth eastward toward the Red sea, as farre as Suaquen, the space of two hundred twentie and two leagues. Howbeit betweene the sea and his dominions runneth a ridge of mountaines inhabited by Moores, who are masters of al the sea-coast along, except the porte of Ercoco, which belongeth to the *Prete*. And likewise on the west, his empire is restrained by another mountainous ridge stretching along the riuer of Nilus, where are founde most rich mines of golde; amongst which are the mines of Damut and of Sinassij, wholie in the possession of Gentiles which pay tribute vnto the *Prete*. Northward it is bounded by an imaginarie line supposed to be drawn from Suachen to the beginning of the isle Meroe aboue mentioned; which line extendeth an hundred and fife and twentie leagues. From thence the Abassin borders trend south somewhat crookedly in manner of a bowe, as farre as the kingdome of Adea (from the mountaines whereof springeth a riuer called by *Ptolemy* \* *Raptus* which falleth into the sea about Melinde) for the space of two hundred and fiftie nine leagues; next vnto the which borders, inhabite certaine Gentiles of blacke colour, with curled haire. And heere the saide

empire

\* Commonly called in Latine writers, *Presbiter Iohannes*, by the Moores *Afclabass*, and by the Abassins his owne subiects *Aegue*, that is, *Emperour*, & *Neguz* which importeth a king, and *Delul* also, being all one with *Ercoc* in the Chaldean tongue, both which wordes signifie pretious or high.

\* Or *Barnagasso*

Most rich gold-mines.

\* And by the late writers *Quilimanci*.

empire is limited by the kingdom of Adel, the head citie whereof called Arar, standeth in the latitude nine degrees. So that all this great empire may containe in compasse sixe hundred threescore and two leagues, little more or lesse. It is refreshed and watered by two mightie riuers which conuey their streames into Nilus, called by *Ptoleme* Astaboras and Astapus, and by the naturall inhabitants Abagni and Tagassi; the first whereof taketh his originall from the lake of Barcena, and the second from the lake of Colue. Barcena lieth in seuen degrees of north latitude; & Colue vnder the verie Equinoctiall. The first (besides Abagni) ingendereth also the riuer of Zeila: and the second (besides Tagassi) giueth essence to the riuer of Quilimanci. Between Abagni and the Red sea lieth the prouince of Barnagasso; betweene Abagni and Tagassi are the kingdomes of Angote and Fatigar; and more towards the \* bay of Barbarians, the prouinces of Adea and of Baru; and somewhat lower, that of Amara. In brieft, beyond the riuer of Tagassi ly the regions of Bileguanzi, and of Tigremahon.

\* Sinus Barbaricus, a mightie gulf on the backside of Africa, stretching (as some will haue it) from 4. degrees of northerly to 17. of southerly latitude.

The Abassins haue no great knowledge of Nilus by reason of the mountaynes which deuide them from it; for which cause they call Abagni the father of riuers. Howbeit they say that vpon Nilus do inhabite two great and populous nations; one of Iewes towards the west, vnder the gouernment of a mighty king; the other more southerly, consisting of Amazones or warlike women; whereof wee will speake more at large in our relation of Monomotapa.

Throughout all the dominion of the *Prete* there is not any one city of importance, either for multitude of inhabitantes, for magnificent buildings, or for any other respect. For the greatest townes there, containe not about two thousand households; the houses being (cottage-like) reared vp with clay and couered with straw, or such like base matter. Also *Ptoleme*y intreating of these partes, maketh mention but of three or foure cities onely, which he appointeth to the south of the Isle Meroe. Howbeit in some places vpon the frontiers of Abassia there are certaine townes verie fairely built, and much frequented for traffique. The Portugales in their trauailes throughout the empire haue often declared vnto the Abassins, how much better it were, for auoiding of the outrageous iniuries and losses daily inflicted by the Moores and Mahumetans both vpon their goods and persons, if the emperour would build cities and castles stronglie walled and fortified. Whereunto they made answere, that the power of their Neguz, or emperour, consisted not in stone-walles, but in the armes of his people. They vse not ordinarily any lime or stone, but onely for the building of churches (saying, that so it becommeth vs to make a difference between the houses of men, and churches dedicated to God) and of their Beteneguz or houses of the emperour, wherein the gouernours of prouinces are placed to execute iustice. These Beteneguz stand continually open, and yet in the gouernours absence no man dare enter into them, vnder paine of being punished as a traytour. Moreouer in the city of Axuma (esteemed by them to haue beene

Of these Beteneguz read Francis Aluarez cap. 42.

the seate of the Queene of *Saba*) stand certaine ruinous buildings like vnto pyramides; which by reason of their greatnes, remaine euen til this present, notwithstanding their many yeeres antiquitie. Likewise there are in this countrie diuers churches and oratories hewen out of the hard rocke, consisting but of one onely stone, some sixtie, some fortie, and some thirtie \* fathomes long, being full of windowes, and engrauen with strange and vnknowne characters. Three such churches there are of twelue \* fathomes broade and eightie in length.

The Abassins which are subiect to the *Prete*, hold opinion, that their prince deriueth his petigree from *Melich* the sonne of *Salomon*, which (as they say) he begot of the Queene of *Saba*; and that themselues are descended from the officers and attendants which *Salomon* appointed vnto this his sonne when he sent him home vnto his mother: which seemeth not altogether vnlkely, if you consider the Iewish ceremonies of circumcision, obseruing of the sabbath, & such like, which they vse vntill this present: likewise they abhorre swines flesh and certaine other meates, which they call vnclane. The *Prete* absolutely gouerneth in all matters, except it be in administering of the sacraments, and ordaining of priests. Hee giueth and taketh away benefices at his pleasure; and in punishing offenders, maketh no difference betweene his clergie and laitie. The administration of their sacraments is wholie referred to the Abuna or Patriarke. The *Prete* is lorde and owner of all the lands and possessions in his empire, except those of the church; which are in number infinite; for the monasteries of saint *Antonie* (besides which there are none of any other order) and the colleges of the Canons and of the Hermites, together with the parishes, are innumerable. They are all provided by the king, both of reuenues and of ornaments.

They haue two winters and two summers; which they discern not by colde and heate, but by rainie and faire weather. They begin their yeere vpon the 26. of August, and diuide it into twelue moneths, each moneth containing thirtie daies, whereunto they adde euery common yeere fide daies, and in the leape yeere sixe, which odde daies they call Pagomen, that is, The end of the yeere. Their ordinarie iourneies in traouelling are twelue miles a day. The common harlots dwell without their townes, and haue wages allowed them out of the common purse: neither may they enter into any cities, nor apparell themselues, but only in yellow.

The soile of Abassia aboundeth generally with graine, and in especiall with barley and all kindes of Pulse, but not so much with wheate; they haue sugar likewise (not knowing how to refine it) and hony, and cotton-wooll, oranges, cedars, and limons, grow naturally there. They haue neither melons, citrons, nor rape-roots: but many plants & herbes different from ours. Their drinke is made of barley and miller: neither haue they any wine made of grapes, but onely in the houses of the emperour, and the \* Abuna. They are not destitute of Elephants, mules, lions, tygres, ounces, and deere. Their

\* Or gardes:  
for Braccia signifieth both.

Of Melich  
read more at  
large in Francisco  
Aluarez  
cap. 37. and  
cap. 138.

\* Or Patriarke.

owne countrey horses are but of a small size: howbeit they haue also of the Arabian and Egyptian breed, the coltes whereof within fower daies after they be foled, they vse to suckle with kine. They haue great and terribles apes; and infinite sorts of birds; but neither cuckowes nor Pies, so farre as euer could be learned. Heere are likewise great store of mines of gold, siluer, iron, and copper; but they know not how to digge and refine the same: for the people of this countrey are so rude and ignorant, that they haue no knowledge nor vse of any arte or occupation. Infomuch as they esteeme the carpenters or smithes craft for an vnlawfull and diabolicall kinde of science; and such as exercise the same, liue among them like infamous persons; neither are they permitted to enter into any of their churches. In the kingdome of Bagamidri are founde most excellent mines of siluer, which they knowe none other way how to take from the ore, but onely by melting it with fire into thinne plates. Goiamé aboundeth with base gold. In the kingdome of Damut they digge and refine it somewhat better. They haue neither the arte of making cloth (for which cause the greater part of them go clad in beasts skins) nor yet the manner of hauking, fowling, or hunting; so that their countries swarme with partridges, quails, selants, cranes, geese, hens, hares, deere, and other like creatures: neither knowe they how to make any full vse or benefite of the fruitfulness of their countrey, nor of the commoditie of rivers. They sowe mill for the most parte, sometimes in one place, and sometimes in another, according as the raine giueth them opportunitie. In summe, they shew no wit nor dexterity in any thing so much as in robbery and warre; vnto both which they haue a kind of naturall inclination. Which is occasioned (as I suppose) by the continuall voiajes made by the *Prete*, and by their vsuall liuing in the wide fields, and that in diuers and sundry places. For to trauaile continually, and remaine in the fields without any stable or firme habitation, compelleth men as it were, of necessitie, to lay holde on all that comes next to hande, be it their owne, or belonging to others.

They are not much subiect to tempests; but to an inconuenience far more intollerable, namely to innumerable swarmes of locusts, which bring such desolation vpon them, as is most dreadfull to consider: for they consume whole prouinces, leauing them quite destitute of succour both for man and beast. They vse no stamped coine in all this empire, but in steede thereof certaine rude pieces of golde, and little balles of iron, especially in Angote; as likewise salt and pepper, which are the greatest riches that they can enjoy.

Hence it is, that the tributes which are payed to the prince, consist onely of such things as his owne dominions do naturally afforde; as namely of salt, gold, siluer, corne, hides, elephants teeth, the horne of the Rhinoceros, with slaues, and such like. Which forme of tribute (being most agreeable to nature) is vsed also in other parts of Africa. Their salt is taken out of a certaine great mountaine in the prouince of Balgada, and is made into square pieces.

The most populous place in all Abassia is the court of the *Prete*, wherefoever it resideth; and there are erected siue or sixe thousand tents of cotton of diuers colours, with so notable a distinction of streets, lanes, market-places, and Tribunals; that euen in a moment euery man knoweth his owne station and the place where he is to doe his busines. (A man may coniecture the greatnes of this courte, if he doe but consider, that (according to the report of some who haue there bin personally present) besides the camels which carry the tents, the mules of carriage exceede the number of fiftie thousand. Their mules serue them to carry burthens, and to ride vpon; but their horses are onely for the warres. The Mahumetans haue now brought this prince to great extremity: but heretofore while he was in his flourishing estate, he liued so maiestically, that he neuer spake but by an interpreter; nor would be scene to his subiects, but onely vpon solemne dayes. At other times it was held as a great fauour, if he did shew but the halfe part of his feete to ambassadours, and to his fauorites. And no maruel for amongst the Ethiopians it hath bene an ancient custome (as *Strabo* writeth) To adore their kinges like gods, who for the most part liue enclosed at home. This so strange and stately kinde of government, did exceedingly abase his subiects, whom the *Prete* vsed like slaues; so that vpon the smallest occasions that might be, he would deprime them of all honour and dignity, were they neuer so great. Abassia containeth many large plaines, and very high mountaines, all fruitfull. In some places you shall haue most extreame coude and frostie weather: but not any snowe throughout the whole empire, no not in the mountaines.

The *Prete* hath many moores in his dominions, and vpon his borders; but the most populous of all others are the Moores called *Dobas*, who are bound by a law neuer to marry, till they can bring most eident testimony, that each of them hath slaine twelue Christians. Wherefore the Abassin merchants passe not by their country, but with most strong guardes.

The Moores  
called *Dobas*.

A particular and briefe relation of all the kingdomes and  
prouinces subiect to the Christian Emperour of  
Abassia, commonly called  
*Prete Ianni*.

*Barnagasso*.

\* *Barnagacz*.



F all the prouinces subiect vnto the *Prete*, that of \* *Barnagasso* is best knowne vnto vs, bicause it is so neere vnto the Red sea; ouer against the shore whereof it stretcheth in length from *Suachen*, almost as farre as the very mouth or entrance of the streight, being (as is before saide) bounded on the south

South part with the mightie riuier of Abagni, which runneth westward out of the lake of Barcena into Nilus. Howbeit it hath no other port vpon the Red sea but onely Ercoco, situate neere the Isle of Mazua; neither hath the *Prete* any parte but this, in all his dominions; so that he is (as it were) on all sides land-locked, which is one of the greatest defects in any empire, kingdome or state, that can be imagined. This prouince is full of townes & villages, as likewise of riuers and pooles which make it exceeding fruitfull. The Viceroy or gouernour hereof, called also by the name of \*Barnagasso, resideth in the citie of Beroa, otherwise called Barua, and by *Ptolemy* (as *Sannutus* thinketh) Coloue, situate vpon a pleasant riuier abounding with fish. Vnto him likewise are subiect the governments of Danfila and of Canfila, neere vnto the borders of Egypt.

*Out of this lake also the riuier of Zeila runneth eastward into the Red sea.*

\* Ear in the *Abassin* tongue signifieth the Sea, and *Neguz* a king: so that *Barnagaez* or *Barnagasso*, is as much as king of the sea, or Lord high admiral.

Certaine yeeres past the great Turkes forces haue mightily afflicted this prouince, destroying the townes, and leading the people captiue: so that in the end *Isaac* the lorde Barnagasso was inforced to compound with the Turkes lieutenant (bearing title, The Bassa of Abassia, and residing in Suachen) for the yeerely tribute of a thousand ounces of golde. Ouer and besides he paieth euery yeere vnto his soueraigne the *Prete*, an hundred and fiftie excellent horses, with cloth of silke and of cotton, and other matters.

On the most westerly part of Barnagasso, beginneth a mightie ridge of mountaines, which for a good space waxing narrower and narrower, at length in the kingdome of Angote dilateth it selfe into a rounde forme, enuironing with the steepe sides, and impassable tops thereof, many fruitfull and pleasant vallies, for the space of fiftene daies iourney in compasse: within which vallies (as it were in walled castles) all persons whatsoever, both male and female, of the *Abassin* blood royall, are vnder paine of most extreme punishment, together with their whole families, limited to remaine. Within this great roundell or enclosure of mountaines, there is (among many others) contained one lesser, which is begirt arounde with a mountainous wall so craggie, steepe, and vnscable, that no man can come in or out, but onely by a certaine basket drawne vp and downe vpon a rope: neither is it possible to furnish the parties within by a siege, be it neuer so long: for they haue fruitfull ground, with houses, a church, a monasterie, cesterne of water, and all other necessaries for the continuall maintenance of fiew hundred persons. Within this strong citadell of mountaines (for the auoiding of all tumults and seditions) are locked vp those great personages which come neere in blood to the *Prete*, and are in possibilitie of the crowne; and here must they all liue and die, except a very few of them, who attaine at length vnto the gouernment of the empire. The *Abassins* haue a tradition, that one *Abraham* an emperour of theirs being admonished in a dreame, that he shoulde keepe his dominions in tranquillitie by the meanes aforesaid, was the first that founde this mountaine, and vsed it for the same purpose.

All persons of the *Abassin* blood royall enclosed within a mightie roundell of mountaines. *Francis Aluarez* cap. 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, &c.

## Tigremahon.

**T**igremahon, a very large kingdome, lieth betweene the river Marabo, Nilus, the Red sea, and the kingdome of Angote. The gouernour heereof paiech for yeerely tribute vnto the *Prete* two hundred Arabian horses, a great quantitie of silke and cotton-cloth, and very much golde. Vnto this kingdome is subiect the prouince of Tigray, wherein standes the citie of Caxumo, sometimes the royall seate of the Queene of Saba (which they say was called Maqueda, of whom *Salomon* begat a sonne named *Melich*, before mentioned) which citie was the seate likewise of Queene *Candace*. Also to the said kingdome of Tigremahon belong the prouinces of Sabaim, Torrates, Balgada, and others.

## Angote.

**T**his kingdome standing betweene the kingdomes of Tigremahon and Amara, is full of mountaines and valleies, and aboundeth mightilie with all kinde of corne and cattell. The inhabitants eat but one meale in fower and twentie howers, and that alwaies in the night: their foode is most commonly rawe flesh, with a kinde of sauce made of an oxe gall. In stead of money they vse salte, and little balles of iron, as is before saide. Vnto this kingdome do belong the prouinces of Abuguna, and Guanamora, with other regions and places.

## Amara.

**T**he kingdome of Amara bordering north vpon Angote, east vpon Xoa, south vpon Damut, and extending west almost as farre as Nilus; is for the most part a plaine region, without mountaines, very fertile, and abounding with cattell. Vpon the frontiers of this kingdome standeth the foresaide large, high, and craggie mountaine, wherein the sonnes, brethren, and kinsfolkes of the *Prete* are most warily kept, and from whence after his decease the heire apparant is brought, to be inuested in the empire.

The kingdome of Xoa situate betweene the kingdomes of Amara, Damut, and Fatigar, containeth many deepe vallies, and aboundeth with all kinde of corne and cattell.

In the kingdome of Goiamé are two mightie lakes, from which Nilus is saide to fetch his originall. Heere is exceeding plentie of golde vnrefined: the north part of this region is full of deserts and mountainous places.

Bagamidri one of the largest kingdomes in all the vpper Ethiopia, extendeth in length by the river Nilus, the space almost of six hundred miles: and in this kingdome are many most rich siluer-mines.

The kingdome of Fatigar lying betweene the kingdomes of Adel, and of Xoa, consisteth the greatest parte of champion groundes, which yeelde wheate, barley, and other graine most plentifully. In this kingdome standes an exceeding high mountaine, on the toppe whereof is a lake of twelue miles in compasse, abounding with great varietie of fish; and from this mountaine runne many riuers stored with fish also.

The kingdome of Damut (as *Sanutus* affirmeth) doth border vpon the kingdome of Xoa, and is enclosed on either side with the lake of Barcena, and the lande of Zanguebar. Howbeit others place Damut betweene the kingdomes of Vangue and Goiame towarde the west, which opinion seemeth most probable. This countrey aboundeth with golde, ginger, grapes, corne, and beafts of all sortes. The slaues of this kingdome are much esteemed, and are commonly sold throughout all Arabia, Persia, and Egypt, where they prooue most valiant soldiers. The greater part of the people of Damut are Gentiles, and the residue Christians, who haue certain monasteries. In this kingdome is that exceeding high and dreadfull mountaine, (hauing one narrow passage onely to ascend by) whither the Prete sendeth his nobles which are convicted of any heinous crime, to suffer ignominious death with hunger and cold. About the fountaines of Nilus some say, that there are Amazones or women-warriers, most valiant and redoubted, which vse bowes and arrowes, and liue vnder the gouernement of a Queene: as likewise the people called Casri or Cafates, being as blacke as pitch, and of a mightie stature, and (as some thinke) descended of the Iewes; but now they are idolaters, and most deadly enemies to the Christians; for they make continuall assaults vpon the Abassins, dispoiling them both of life and goods: but all the day-time they lie lurking in mountaines, woods, and deepe valleies.

*The mountaine of death.*

*Of these Amazones read more in the discourse of Monomotapa following.*

*The stile vsed by Prete Ianni in his letters.*

I the king, whose name the lions doe reuerence, and who by the grace of God was at my baptisme called *Athani Timgil*, that is, *The incense of the virgine*, but now at the beginning of my raigne, tooke vpon me the name of *Dauid*; beloued of God, the pillar of faith, descended of the tribe of *Iuda*, the sonne of *Dauid*, the sonne of *Salomon*, the sonne of the pillar of *Sion*, the sonne of the seede of *Iacob*, the sonne of the hand of *Marie*, the sonne of *Nabu* according to the flesh, the sonne of the holy Apostles *Peter* and *Paul* according to grace, Emperour of the higher and greater *Aethiopia*, and of most large kingdomes, territories, and iurisdiccions, the king of *Xoa*, *Cassate*, *Fatigar*, *Angote*, *Baru*, *Baaliganze*, *Adea*, *Vangue*, and *Goiame*, where the fountaines of Nilus are; as likewise of *Amara*, *Baguamedri*, *Ambea*, *Vaguc*, *Tigremahon*, *Sabaim* the countrie of the *Queen* of *Saba*, of *Barnagasso*, and lorde as farre as *Nubia*, which confineth vpon *Egypt*.

*This stile is taken out of a letter written by Dauid the Emperour of Aethiopia 1524.*

Certaine answeres of Don *Francisco Alvarez*,  
 (who from the yeere 1520. for the space of sixe yeeres  
 next ensuing, had trauailed and remained in the countrey of  
 PRETE IANNI with the Portugall ambassadour Rodrigo de  
 Lima) made vnto sundrie demaunds or questions of the Archbishop of  
*Bragança, concerning the state of the foresaide countrey and prince,*  
*and of the disposition, manners, and customes of the peo-*  
*ple. Io. Bap. Ramusius, vol. i. delle uoiag.*

fol. 254. 255.



He Ethiopian Emperour called *Prete Ianni* hath no  
 settled place of abode where he continually resideth;  
 but is alwaies flitting vp and downe, sometimes to one  
 place, and sometimes to another, and liueth in tentes  
 set vp in the fields, enuironed with a kinde of fortifica-  
 tion; of which tentes there may be in his campe of all  
 sorts to the number of 5000. or 6000; and of horse-  
 men and mules 50000. and vpwards.

It is a generall custome of the *Prete* and of all his subiects not to passe  
 on horsebacke by any church (so great is their reuerence to holy places)  
 but so soone as they approach thereunto, they light vpon the ground, and ha-  
 uing passed by, they mount on horsebacke againe.

Whensoever the *Prete* marcheth with all his troupes, there is carrièd  
 before him vpon the shoulders of certaine priests an altar and a consecrated  
 stone, whereon they vse to administer their communion: the priests ap-  
 pointed to cary it vpon a frame of wood, are eight in number, seruing fower  
 and fower by turnes; before whom goeth a clerke with a censer and a little  
 bell sounding; at the sight and noise whereof all persons forsake the way,  
 and such as are on horsebacke, dismount.

In all this countrey there is not any towne consisting of about 1600.  
 families, & there are very few that haue so many: neither are there any castles  
 or walled places; but verie manie villages, and infinite numbers of people.  
 Their houses are built round, al of earth, flat-roofed, and couered with a kind  
 of thatch which wil last the time of a mans life, being compassed about with  
 courts or yards. They haue no bridges of stone vpon their riuers, but all  
 of wood. They sleep commonly vpon ox-hides, or else vpon certaine cou-  
 ches corded & sustained with thongs made of the said hides. They haue no  
 kind of tables to eat their meat vpon, but haue it serued in vpon plaine & ve-  
 ry broad platters of wood, without any table-cloth at al. Also they haue cer-  
 taine great deep dishes like basons made of black earth shining in maner of  
 Iet, with other cups of the same earth, out of which they vse to drinke water  
 & wine. Many of them eat raw flesh, but others broile it vpon the coles or  
 firebrands

firebrands: and some places there are so destitute of wood, that the people are faine to dresse their meate with oxe-dung.

Their armour and weapons be Azagaie or short darts, some few swords, and certaine shirts of male verie long and streight, and (as some of our men which haue bene them doe report) made of naughtie and vnseruiceable matter. They haue bowes and arrowes great store, but not with feathers as ours be: as likewise helmets and head-peeeces, but very few, and first brought in since they began to haue traffique with the Portugals: howbeit they haue manie strong targets. Of artillerie they had \*at our departure foureteene small yron-peeeces, which they had bought of certaine Turkes that vsually came to trafficke vpon the coast; for which peeeces the *Prete* willed that they should haue their vttermoſt demande, to the end they might be the willinger to returne and bring more; and he caused some of his seruants also to learne how to discharge them.

\* 1526.

The riuer of Nilus, I my selfe neuer saw, although at one time I was within thirtie miles thereof; howbeit some of our Portugales haue trauelled to the very fountains of Nilus, which are two great lakes comparable to seas, situate in the kingdome of Goiam; out of which hauing conueyed it selfe a small distance, this riuer embraceth certaine Islets, and then holdeth on his course to Egypt.

*Philippo Pigafetta will haue Nilus to spring out of one great lake onely, which is to the south of Goiam.*

The reason why Nilus yeerely ouerfloweth Egypt, is, because the generall winter of Ethiopia holding on with most mightie and continual raines from the middle of Iune to the midst of September, doth make the said riuer so exceedingly to swel, that the waters thereof couer al the plaine countrie of Egypt.

*The true cause of the increase of Nilus.*

In all the foresaid dominions of the *Prete*, they vse not to write one to another, neither do the officers of Iustice commit any of their affaires to writing, but all matters are dispatched by messengers and by wordes of mouth: onely it was told me, that the reuenues and tributes of the *Prete*, are put downe in writing both vpon the receite, and at the disbursement.

The emperour *Prete Ianni* hath two speciall princely names, to wit, *Acegue*, which signifieth an emperour, and *Neguz*, a king.

The Patriarke or arche-prelate of all Abassia is called *Abuna*, that is to say, Father; neither is there any in all the whole empire which ordaineth ministers, but onely hee.

There is no wine of the grape made publicquely in any place, but onelie in the houses of the *Prete* and of the Patriarke; for if it be made anie other where, it is done by stealth.

The wine which is vsed in their communions, they make of raisins steeped ten daies in water, and afterward streined in a wine-presse; and it is a most cordiall, delicate, and strong wine.

In this countrey is great abundance of golde, siluer, copper, and tinne; but the people are ignorant how to worke it out of the mines: neither haue they any coine of golde or siluer, but all their bargaines are made by bartering

bartering of one commoditie for another. Also they trucke little peeces of gold, some weighing a dram, and some an ounce. But salt is the principall thing which runneth currant for money throughout all the emperours dominions.

Some places there are which yeeld wheat and barley, and others millet in great plentie; and where the saide graines are not reaped, there groweth Tafo da guza, a seede vterly vnknowne in these parts, as likewise lentiles, beanes, pease, fitches, and all kinde of pulse in abundance.

Here are infinite store of sugar canes, which they know neither how to boile nor refine, but eate it rawe.

There be great plentie of faire grapes and peaches, which are ripe in the moneths of Februarie and Aprill. Of oranges, limons, and citrons, the quantitie is innumerable; for they growe most naturally out of the Abassin soile: garden-herbes there are but fewe, because the people delight neither to set nor sowe them.

All the whole countrey is full of Basill, which groweth very tall both in the woods and vpon the mountaines: so are there likewise other odoriferous herbes of diuers sorts, but vnknowne vnto vs. Of trees common with vs I remember none other kinds growing there, but onely Cypresses, damfin-trees, fallowes by the waters side, and trees of Iuiabas.

Honie there is exceeding great plentie all the countrey ouer: neither are their bee-hiues placed abroad in the open aire as ours are: but they set them in chambers, where making a little hole in the wall, the bees go thicke in and out, and come home laden with honie. Wherefore there is great quantitie gathered in all the empire, but especially in the monasteries, where they make it a great part of their sustenance. There are founde also swarmes of bees in the woodes and vpon the mountaines, neere whom they place certaine hollowe boxes made of barke, which being filled with honi-combes, they take vp, and carrie home to their houses.

They gather much waxe, whereof they make their candles, because they haue no vse of tallow.

*Oyle strayned  
out of an herbe.*

They haue no oyle of oliues, but of another kinde which they call Hena: and the hearbe whereout they straine it, is like a little vine-leaf: neither hath this oyle any smell at all, but in colour it is as beautifull as gold.

Here likewise they haue store of flax, but they know not how to make cloth thereof.

Here is also great plenty of cotton, whereof they make cloth of diuers colours.

One countrey there is so extremely colde, that the people are inforced to clad themselues in very course cloth of a darke tawnie.

Concerning phisicke, and the cure of diseases, they know verie little or nothing; but for aches in any partes of their bodies the onely remedy which they vse is to apply cupping-glasses; and for head-aches they let the great vaine of the temples bloud.

Howbeit they haue certaine herbes, the iuice whereof being drunke, serueth them in steede of a purgation.

There would in this countrie be gathered infinite store of fruit, and far greater quantitie of corne, were not the poore commons most miserable oppressed by their superiours, who extorte all their substance from them; so that they neuer till nor plant any more, then they must of meere necessitie.

In no place wherefoeuer I trauelled, could I see any shambles of flesh, but onely at the court of the *Prete*: for in other places no man may kill an ox, though it bee his owne, without licence from the gouernour of the countrie.

As touching their ordinary proceeding in iustice, they vse not to put any to sudden death, but beate them with bastonados according to the quality of the offence, and likewise they plucke out their eyes, and cut off their handes and feete: howbeit during mine abode there I saw one burnt for robbing of a church.

The common sort speake truth very seldome, though it bee vpon an oathe, vnlesse they be forced to sweare *By the head of the King*. They feare exceedingly to be excommunicated; so that being enioined any thing that tendeth to their preiudice, if they do it at all, it is done for feare of excommunication.

Their depositions or othes are performed in this manner. The partie to be deposed goeth accompanied with two priests, carrying with them fire and incense to the church-doore, whereon he layeth his handes; and then the said priests adiure him to tell the truth, saying: *If thou sweare falsly, as the Lyon deuoureth the beasts of the forest, so let the diuell deuoure thy soule; and as corne is ground vnder the mill-stone, so let him grindeth thy bones; and finally, as the fire burneth vp the wood, so may thy soule burne in the fire of hell*: and the partie sworne, answereth to euery of the former clausures, Amen. *But if thou speake truth, let thy life be prolonged with honour, and thy soule enter into Paradise with the blessed*: and he againe answereth, Amen. Which being done, hee giueth testimonie of the matter in question.

No person may sit in their churches, nor enter into them with his shooes on, nor spit within them, neither may any dogge or any other creature voide of reason come within them. They confesse themselues standing vpon their feete, and so standing likewise, receiue absolution. They say their forme of publike praier after one and the same manner, both in the churches of their Canons, and of their friers: which friers haue no wiues; but the Canons and priests are permitted to haue. Where the Canons liue together, they go each man to diet at his owne house; but the friers eate their meate in common.

Their ecclesiasticall gouernours are called Licanati. The sonnes of the Canons are, as it were by inheritance, Canons; but priests sonnes haue no such priuilege, vnlesse they be ordained by the Abuna. They pay no tithes

to any churches, but the clergie are maintained by great possessions belonging to their churches and monasteries. Also when any priest is cited, he is contented before a secular iudge.

Whereas I saide, they sit not in their churches, it is to be vnderstoode, that alwaies without the church doore stande a great number of wooden crutches, such as lame men vse to goe vpon; where euery man taketh his owne, and leaneth thereupon all the time of their diuine seruice.

All their books (which they haue in great numbers) are written in parchment, for paper they haue none; and the language wherein they are written named Tigia, is all one with the Abassin language: but so it was called from the name of the first towne in all that empire, which was conuerted to the Christian religion.

All their churches haue two curtaines, one about their great altar, with belles, within which curtaine none may enter but onely priests: also they haue another curtaine stretching through the midst of their church, and within that may no man come, but such as haue taken holy orders: inso-much that many gentlemen and honorable persons take orders vpon them, onely that they may haue acesse into their churches.

The greater part of their monasteries are built vpon high mountaines, or in some deepe valley: they haue great reuenues and iurisdiccions; and in many of them they eate no flesh all the yeere long. Neither do they spende any store of fish, because they know not how to take it.

Vpon the wals of all their churches are painted the pictures of Christ, of the blessed virgine Marie, of the apostles, prophets and angels, and in euery one the picture of Saint George a horseback. They haue no Roodes, neither will they suffer Christ crucified to be painted, because they say, they are not woorthy to behold him in that passion. All their priests, friers, and noble-men continually carrie crosses in their hands; but the meaner sort of people carrie them about their neckes.

Their moouable feasts, namely Easter, the feast of Ascension & Whitsontide, they obserue at the verie same daies and times that we do. Likewise as concerning the feasts of Christmas, the Circumcision, the Epiphanie, and other the feasts of the saints, they agree whollie with vs, though in some other things they varie.

They haue great store of leproous persons, who are not put apart from the rest of the people, but liue in company with them: and many there are who for charitie and deuotions sake do wash them, and heale their wounds.

Their muscical  
instruments.

They haue a kinde of trumpets, but not of the best, and likewise certaine drums of brasse which are brought from Cairo, and of woode also covered with leather at both endes, and cimbals like vnto ours, and certaine great basons whereon they make a noise. There are flutes in like sort, and a kinde of square instruments with strings, not much vnlike to an harpe, which they call *Dauid Mozan*, that is to say, the harpe of *Dauid*; and with these harpes they sounde before the *Prete*, but somewhat rudely.

Their

Their horses of the countrey-breed are in number infinite, but such small hackney-iades, that they doe them little seruice: howbeit those that are brought out of Arabia and Egypt are most excellent and beautifull horses: and the great horse-masters also in Abassia haue certaine breeds or races of them, which being new soled, they suffer not to sucke the damme about three daies, if they be such as they meane to backe betimes: but separating them from their dammes, they suckle them with kine, and by that meanes they prooue most sightly and gallant horses. Hitherto *Aluarez.*

Thus much (I hope) may suffice to haue bin spoken concerning the vpper or Inner Ethiopia which containeth the empire of *Prete Ianni*: now si-thens we are so far proceeded, let vs take also a cursory and brieue surueie of the lower or extreme Ethiopia, extending it selfe in forme of a speares point, or a wedge, as far as thirtie siue degrees of southerly latitude.

*Of the lower or extreme Ethiopia.*

**T**His parte of Africa being vtterly vnknowne to *Ptolemy* and all the ancient writers, but in these later times, thoroughly discouered by the Portugales, especially along the coast, beginneth to the Northwest about the great riuer of Zaire, not far from the Equinoctial: from whence stretching southward to thirtie siue degrees, and then Northward along the sea-coast on the backside of Africa, as far as the very mouth or entrance of the Arabian gulfe, it limiteth the south and east frontiers of the Abassin Empire last before described.

In this part also are many particulars very memorable, as namely besides fundry great empires & kingdomes, The famous mountaines of the moon, the mightie riuers of Magnice Cuama, and Coauo, springing out of the lake Zembre, the renowned cape of good hope, and other matters whereof we will intreate in their due places.

This portion of Africa is diuided into sixe principall partes, namely: The land of Aian, the land of Zanguebar, the empire of Mohenemugi, the empire of Monomorapa, the region of Casraria, & the kingdome of Congo.

*Aian the first generall part of Ethiopia the lower.*

**T**He land of Aian is accounted by the Arabians to be that region which lyeth betweene the narrow entrance into the Red sea, and the riuer of Quilimanci; being vpon the sea-coast for the most part inhabited by the said Arabians; but the inland-partes thereof are peopled with a black nation which are Idolaters. It comprehendeth two kingdomes; Adel and Adea.

*The riuer of Quilimanci in nine degrees of northerly latitude.*

Adel is a very large kingdome, and extendeth from the mouth of the Arabian gulfe to the cape of Guardafu called of olde by *Ptolemy* Aromata promontorium. South and west it bordereth vpon the dominions of *Prete Ianni*, about the kingdome of Faugar. The king of this countrey being a

*Adel the first generall part of Aian.*

Moore, is accounted amongst the Mahumetans a most holy man, and very much reuerenced by them, because he wagem continuall war with the Christians, taking captiue many of the Abassins, and sending them to the great Turke, and the princes of Arabia, of whome he receiueh greate ayde for the maintenance of his warres, both of horse and foote. The people of Adel are of the colour of an oliue, being very warlike, notwithstanding that the greatest part of them want weapons. Their principall city is called \* Anar, as some are of opinion. Vnto this kingdome is subiect the citie of Zeila inhabited by Mooes, situate on a sandie and low soile, which some suppose to be built in the very same place, without the enterance of the Red sea, where *Ptolemy* placed the ancient mart-towne of Aualites. This citie is a place of great traffike; for hither they bring out of India, cloth, elephants teeth, frankincense, pepper, golde, and other rich merchandize. The territorie adjoining yeeldeth abundance of honie, waxe, and great quantitie of oile, which they make not of oliues, but of a kinde of daintie plums: it affourdeth likewise such plentie of corne, of cattell, and of fruits differing from ours, that they are transported by shipping to other nations. Barbora likewise, a citie of the Moores, standeth in this kingdome of Adel, and hath a commodious haven, wherunto resort many ships laden with merchandize, from Aden in Arabia, and from Cambaya vpon the riuier of Indus. The citizens are blacke people, and their wealth consisteth most of all in flesh.

In the yeere 1541. *Gradaameth* the king of this place, after manie mischiefes which he had done to *Claudius* the emperour of Abassia, being vanquished by *Christopher de Gama*, the Indian Viceroy of *John* the third king of Portugale; hee did by meanes of the souldiers and warlike prouisions, which were sent him from the Sheque or gouernour of Zebit, overcome the Portugals & the Abassins. Howbeit afterward hauing sent the said forces backe againe to Zebit, himselfe was slaine, and his whole armie overthrowne by king *Claudius* aforesaide. But certaine yeeres after, the successeur of *Gradaameth* hauing in a warlike encounter subdued the *Prere*, rode in triumph vpon a little asse; signifying thereby, that he ascribed not the victorie to his owne forces, but to the power of God,

*Adea*, the second kingdome of the land of Aian, situate vpon the easterne Ocean, is confined northward by the kingdome of Adel, & westward by the Abassin empire. It is exceeding fruitfull, & one part thereof mightily aboundeth with woods, the residue being sufficiently stored with cattell & corne. The inhabitants being Moores by religion, and paying tribute to the emperour of Abassia, are (as they of Adel before-named) originally descended of the Arabians: who many hundred yeeres agoe, partly by their rich traffike, and especially by force of armes, became lords not onely of Aian, but of all the sea-coast along as farr as Cabo de los corrientes, standing in the southerly latitude of fower and twentie degrees. In all which space the cities standing vpon the sea-coast; before the Portugals discovered the east

\* Or Anar.

Ptol. geog. lib.  
4. cap. 7.Adea, the second part of  
Aian.

Indies, lay open and vnfortified to the sea (because the Arabians themselves were absolute lords thereof) but were strongly walled toward the lande, for feare of the Casri, or lawlesse wilde Negros, who were deadly enimies to the Arabians, and vterly misliked their so neere neighbourhood. Howbeit since the Portugals taking of Magadazo, and diuers other townes vpon the coast, they haue applied themselves very much to fortification. But, to returne to the matter where we left, vnto the foresaid kingdome of Adea belongeth the kingdome of Magadazo, so called of the principall citie therein, which is a most strong, beautifull, and rich place, and is subiect to the kingly gouernment of a Moore. The territorie adiacent is exceeding fruitfull, abounding with sheepe, kine, horses, wheate, batly, and other kindes of graine. It hath also an excellent haue, and much frequented by the ships of Aden and Cambaya, which come thither laden with fundrie kindes of cloth, with spices and other merchandize; and from hence they carrie elephants teeth, golde, slaues, honie, and waxe. The inhabitants are of an oliue-colour, and some of them blacke, like vnto the nations adioining, and they go naked from the girdle-stead vpwrd, and speak the Arabian toong. They are but meanelly weaponed, which causeth them to shoote poisoned arrowes. This citie was in times past head of all the townes and cities of the Moores standing along this coast for a great distance.

*The kingdome  
and citie of  
Magadazo.*

*Zanguebar or Zanzibar, the second generall part of  
the lower Ethiopia.*

**Z**Anzibar or Zanguebar, so called by the Arabians and Persians, is that tract of lande, which runneth along some parte of the dominions of *Prete Ianni*, and from thence extendeth it selfe by the east of Mohenemugi, til it ioyneth with the frontiers of Monomotapa. Howbeit some there are who vnder the name of Zanzibar will haue all the south part of Africa to be vnderstood, euen as far as Cabo Negro, which stretcheth into the western Ocean about 18. degrees of southerly latitude: so that they comprehend therein the empires of Mohenemugi and Monomotapa, and all the land of Casraria. But in this controuersie wee rather chuse to follow the opinion of *Sanctus*, affirming with him, that the said maritime tract of Zanguebar (as it is by vs. before limited) is a lowe, fennie, and woodie countrie, with many greate and small riuers running through it: which extremity of moisture in those hot climates causeth the ayer to be most vnwholesome and pestilent. The inhabitants are for the most part black, with curled haire, being Idolaters, and much addicted to forcery and witchcraft. They go naked all the vpper part of their bodies, couering their nether partes with clothes of diuers colours, and with beasts skins. And this tract of lande stretching along the sea-coast from the riuer Quilimanci to the riuer of Magnice containeth the kingdomes and territories of Melinde, Mombaza, Quiloa, Moçambique, Sofala, and others.

Melinde, the most Northerly kingdome of Zanguebar, situate in two degrees and an halfe of southerly latitude, and stretching from the coast vp into the main for the space of an hundred miles, hath a strong and stately city of the same name, being seuentie miles distant from Mombaça. It aboundeth with Rice, Millet, flesh, limons, citrons, and all kinds of fruites: but as for corne, it is brought hither out of Cambaya. The inhabitants (especially on the sea coast) are Moores and Mahumerans: who build their houses very sumptuously after the manner of Europe. They are of a colour inclining to white, and some blacke people they haue also among them, which are for the greatest part Idolaters: howbeit all of them pretend a kinde of ciuilitie both in their apparell, and in the decencie and furniture of their houses. The women are white, and sumptuously attired after the Arabian fashion with cloth of silke. Likewise they adorne their neckes, armes, hands, and feete with bracelets and iewels of golde and siluer. When they go abroad out of their houses, they couer themselues with a vaile of raffata, so that they are not knowne but when they themselues list. Vpon this coast of Melinde you haue a very safe harborough, wherunto the ships that faile those seas do vsually resort. In brieffe the inhabitants are a kind, true-hearted, & trustie people, & courteous to strangers. They haue alwaies bene in league with the Portugals, giuing them most friendly entertainmēt, & reposing much cōfidence in them; neither haue they euer done them any iniury.

The kingdome of Mombaça, being the second generall part of Zanguebar, and situate in three degrees and an halfe beyond the Equinoctiall line, bordering to the north vpon Melinde, and to the south vpon Quiloa; is so called after the name of a certaine isle and citie vpon the coast, both which are named Mombaça, and are peopled with Mahumerans: their houses are of many stories high, and beautified with pictures both grauen and painted. Their kings are Mahumetans, and most deadly enemies to the Christians: one of the which taking vpon him to resist the Portugals, was himselte quite vanquished and ouerthrowen, and constrained to leaue his citie to the sacke and spoile of his enemies, who found therein a good quantitie of gold, siluer, and pearle; and likewise cloth of cotton, of silke, and of gold, with great numbers of slaues, & such other commodities. Howbeit they remained not there any long time, but were inforced to abandon the place in regard of the most vnwholesome and infectious aire. This kingdome is tributarie to the great empire of Mohenemugi.

The kingdome of Quiloa situate in nine degrees towards the pole Antarticke, and (like the last before mentioned) taking the denomination thereof from a certaine isle and citie both called by the name of Quiloa; may be accounted for the third portion of the lande of Zanguebar. This island hath a very fresh and coole aire, and is replenished with trees alwaies greene, and with plentie of all kinde of victuals. It is situate at the mouth of the great river Coato which springeth out of the same lake from whence Nilus floweth, and is called also by some Quiloa, and by others Tahina,

and

Melinde the  
first part of  
Zanguebar.

Mombaça the  
second portion  
of Zanguebar.

Quiloa the  
third part of  
Zanguebar.

and runneth from the saide lake, eastward for the space of sixe hundred miles, till it approacheth neere the sea, where the streame thereof is so forcible, that at the very mouth or out-let, dispersing it selfe into two branches, it shapeth out a great isle, to the west whereof vpon the coast you may behold the litle isle and the citie of Quiloa; being separated from the maine by a very narrow arme of the sea. This isle (as also the great isle before named) is inhabited by Mahumetans, who are of colour whitish. Their women are comely, and rich in their attire. Their houses are fairely builte of lime and stone, and haue within them very gallant and costly furniture, and without they are enuironed with gardens and orchards full of sundry delicate fruits and herbes. Of this isle the whole kingdome (as is aforesaide) tooke the name; which vpon the coast extendeth it selfe to Cabo Delgado, or the slender Cape (being the limite betweene Moçambique and this kingdome of Quiloa) & from thence it stretcheth vnto the foresaid riuier of Coauo. In old time this kingdome of Quiloa was the chiefe of all the principalities there adioining; for the Arabians which were masters thereof had enlarged their dominions for the space of nine hundred miles, so that all the sea-coast and the islands, as farre as Cabo de los Corrientes situate in fower and twentie degrees of southerly latitude, were tributarie and subiect thereunto. Whereupon when the Portugals arriued in those countries, the king of this place trusted so much to himselfe, that he thought he was able with his owne forces, not onely to make a defensue warre against them, but also to driue them from those places, which they had already surprized. Howbeit, quite contrarie to his expectation, he was by the Portugals vtterly vanquished and put to flight. Who seizing vpon the isle and citie, enriched themselues with the great booties & spoiles that they found therein. Thus the mightie king of Quiloa (who before the Portugals arriuell in those parts, enioied also the chiefe commoditie of the rich gold mines of Sofala) became at length, by a composition made with *Don Pedro Cabral*, tributarie to the crowne of Portugall, paying for tribute at the first fve hundred, and afterward fiteene hundred peeces of gold. Vpon the foresaid isle the Portugals erected a fortresse, which their king afterward commanded them to deface, considering that there were other forts sufficient enough for that coast.

Betweene the two mightie riuers of Coauo and Cuama (both which spring out of one lake with Nilus) among the kingdomes of Mombara, Mozimba, Macuas, and Embeoe, which are not as yet perfectly discouered, lieth the kingdome of Moçambique, so called of three small islets, situate in the mouth of the riuier \*Meghincate in fower teene and a halfe, or fiteene degrees of southerly latitude, which kingdome in ancient time by *Ptolemy* was called Promontorium Prassum. In the principall of the three foresaide isles, there is a very commodious and secure haven, capable of all kinde of vessels, and there also the Portugals haue built a very strong forte: where albeit in regard of the lownes and moisture of the soile, being

*Moçambique*  
the fourth part  
of Zangnebar.

\* Or Moghincats.

full of bogges and fens, the aire be most vnholosome, and in manner pestilent: yet the oportunitie of the place, and the plentie of victuals, haue made it one of the most famous and frequented hauens in all that Ocean. For which cause the flectes which saile from Portugall to the east Indies, when they are out of hope to performe their voiage in summer, do vsually resort to spend the whole winter at Moçambique: and those Portugale ships also which come from the Indies toward Europe, must of necessitie touch at this place, to furnish themselves with victuals. Along these coasts do saile certaine Moores in vessels sowed or fastened together with thongs of leather, the sailes whereof they make of Palme-leaues, and in stead of pitch and tallow, they calke them with gumme which they gather in the woods. Vnto this kingdome of Moçambique belongeth the prouince of Angoscia, so called from certaine isles of that name, lying directly ouer against it, which prouince stretcheth to the riuier of Cuama. It is inhabited by Mahumetans and Gentiles, who are for the greatest part merchants, and do trafficke along that coast with the same wares and commodities wherewith the people of Sofala do trade.

*Angoscia.*

*Sofala the first part of Zanguebar.*

Sofala, or Stefala, the first and last general part of Zanguebar, is a small kingdome lying vpon the sea-coast, between the riuers of Cuama and Magnice, being so called after the name of a riuier running through it, in which riuier lyeth an Island, which is the head and principal place of the whole countrie. On this Island the Portugales haue built a most strong forte, by meanes whereof they are become Lordes of the richest trade in all those parts. For (to say nothing of the Iuorie, Amber, and slaues which are hither brought) all the gold in a manner that is taken out of those manifolde and endlesse mines of Sofala and all the Inland-countries thereabouts, is here exchanged vnto the Portugales for cotton-cloth, silkes, and other commodities of Cambaia: all which is thought yeerely to amount vnto the summe of two millions of gold. This golden trade was first in the power of the Moores of Magadazo; and afterward it befell to them of Quiloa. The inhabitants of Sofala are Mahumetans, being gouerned by a king of the same sect, who yeeldeth obedience to the crowne of Portugale, because hee will not be subiect to the empire of Monomotapa.

Neither is it heere to bee omitted, that in these parts vnder the name of Iuorie, are bartered not onely elephants teeth, but also the teeth of sea-horses: which creatures are commonly found in the riuers of Nilus, Niger, Coauo, Cuama, Magnice, and all other the great riuers of Africa.

*The empire of Mohenemugi, the third generall part of the lower Ethiopia.*

**T**His mightie empire bordering south vpon the kingdome of Moçambique, and the empire of Monomotapa; to the riuier Coauo, and beyond; west with the riuier Nilus; North vpon the dominions of *Prete Ianni*; and east vpon the kingdomes of Meliude, Mombaça, and Quiloa,

*hath*

hath not many yeeres ago bin diſcouered or at leaſt heard of by the Portugales, vpon occaſion perhaps of the warres, which with vnfortunate ſucceſſe they haue waged againſt Monomotapa. The emperour of this country holdeth a continuall league with the princes of Melinde, Mombaça, and Quiloa, towards the ſea, for traffiques ſake: for they prouide his dominions with cloth of cotton, cloth of ſilke, and ſundrie other commodities brought from Arabia, Perſia, Cambaya, and India, which are very well eſteemed in thoſe parts: but among the reſt they bring eſpecially certaine little balles, of a red colour, and in ſubſtance like vnto glaſſe, being made in Cambaya of a kinde of Bitumen or clammie claie, which balles they uſe to weare like beades about their necks. They ſerue alſo to them in ſtead of money, for gold they make none account of. Likewise with the ſilkes that are brought vnto them they apparel themſelues from the girdle downward. In exchange of all the foreſaide wares and commodities they giue gold, ſiluer, copper, and iorie. Howbeit vpon his Inland frontiers to the ſouth and ſouthweſt, he maintaineth continuall and bloudie warres againſt the emperour of Monomotapa, his principall and greateſt forces conſiſting of a moſt barbarous and fierce nation, called by the people of Congo Giachi, but by themſelues Agag, who inhabite from the firſt great lake which is the fountaine of Nilus, for a certaine ſpace vpon both ſides of the ſaid riuer, and then afterward on the weſterne banke as farre as the ſecond great lake from whence Zaire hath his chiefe original, & thence euen to the confines of *Prete Iarmi*. They are a wilde and lawles people, liuing (after the manner of the ancient Scythians and Nomades, and like the Tartars and Baduin-Arabians of theſe times) a vagrant kind of life, vnder cabbins and cottages in the open foreſts. They are of ſtature tall, and of countenance moſt terrible, making lines vpon their cheekes with certaine iron-inſtruments, and turning their eie-lids backward, whereby they caſt vpon their enimies a moſt dreadfull and aſtoniſhing aſpect. They are man-eaters, and couragious in battaile. For their armour of defence they uſe certaine Pauifes or great targets wherewith they couer their whole bodies, being otherwiſe naked: and their offeſiue weapons are dartes and daggers. It is not many yeeres ſince theſe cruel ſauages ranging weſtward from Nilus, inuaded the kingdome of Congo, vanquiſhed the inhabitants in ſundrie battels, tooke the head citie, and forced the king *Don Aluaro* to flee for ſuccour and ſafetie vnto the iſle of horſes, in the mouth of the great riuer Zaire, being one of the extreme frontiers of his dominions. Where the king himſelfe was taken with an incurable dropſie, and his people in great numbers died of famine; who to relieue their extreme neceſſities, ſold their wiues, their children, and their owne ſelues for ſlaues vnto the Portugals. Howbeit theſe warlike Giacchi, notwithstanding their hautie courage, and great exploits, are no whit feared, but rather moſt boldly encountered, and ſometimes vanquiſhed by the Amazones or women warriers of Monomotapa. Which two nations, what by warlike ſtratagems, and what by open and maine force, do often fight  
the

the most desperate and doubtfull battailes, that are performed in all those southern parts.

*The empire of Monomotapa, the fourth generall part  
of the lower Ethiopia.*

**B**Enomotapa, Benomotaxa, or Monomotapa is a large empire, so called after the name of the prince thereof, who in religion is a Gentile, and for extension of dominions, and military forces, a renowned and mightie emperour; in the language of whose subiects an emperour is signified by this word Monomotapa. This empire of his lyeth, as it were, in an Island which containeth in compasse seven hundred and fiftie, or (as some thinke) one thousand leagues, being limited on the north-west by the great lake whereout Nilus springeth; on the south, by the riuer Magnice and the tributarie kingdome of Butua or Toroa; on the east it hath the sea-coast and the kingdome of Sofala, which in very deed is a member thereof; and the North part abutteth vpon the riuer of Cuama, and the empire of Mohenemugi. That part of this great Island which lyeth betweene the mouth of Cuama, and the cape de los Corrientes, is a very pleasant, holesome, and fruitful country. And from the said cape to the riuer of Magnice, the whole region aboundeth with beasts both great and small; but it is cold by reason of the sharp brizes which come off the sea; and so destitute of wood, that the people for fewel are constrained to vse the dung of beasts, and they apparel themselves in their skinnes. Along the banke of the riuer Cuama are diuers hilles and downes covered with trees, and vallies likewise watered with riuers, being pleasantly situate, and well peopled. Here are such plenty of Elephants, as it seemeth by the great quantitie of their teeth, that there are yeerely slaine betweene foure and fise thousand. Their elephants are nine cubites high, and fise cubites in thicknes: They haue long and broad eares, little eyes, shorte tailes, and great bellies: and some are of opinion, that Ethiopia yeeldeth as many elephants, as Europe doth oxen. The townes and villages of this empire are very few, and their buildings are of wood and clay, covered with thatch. None may haue doores to their houses but onely great personages. Their principal cities are\* Zimbas, and Benamataza, the first whereof is one and twentie, and the second fiftene daies journey from Sofala. They serue this emperour at the table vpon their knees: to sit before him is all one, as with vs for a man to stand vpon his feete, neither may any presume to stand in his presence, but onely great lords. He is tasted vnto, not before, but after he hath eaten and drunke. For his armes he hath a spade and two dartes. Tribute he taketh none, but onely certaine daies seruice and giftes presented vnto him; without which there is no appearing in his sight. Hee carrieth, whitherfoeuer he go, foure hundred dogs, as a most sure and trustie guard. Hee keepeth all the heires of his tributary princes, as vassals, and as pledges of their fathers loialtie. There are no prisons in al his empire:

for

*Some will haue Magnice and Cuama to be two branches of one mightie riuer springing out of the great lake; which being so, they must quite separate Monomotapa from the same lake.*

*\* This place both in regard of the name and situation may seeme to haue been Agysimba mentioned by Ptolemy.*

for sufficient testimonie being brought of the commission of any crime, iustice is executed out of hand: and of all offences none are punished with greater seueritie and rigour, then witchcraft, theft, and adulterie. His people are of a meane stature, blacke, and well proportioned. They are Gentiles in religion, hauing no idols, but worshipping one onely God whom they call Mozimo. They go apparelled in cloth of cotton, either made by themselves, or brought from other countries: howbeit the king will in no case weare any forreign cloth for feare of poison or such like trecherie: and the meaner sort of his subiects are clad in beasts skins. Among all the armies and legions of soldiers, which this emperour (for the defence of his great estate) is forced to maintaine, his Amazones or women warriors before mentioned are the most valiant, being indeed the very sinewes and chiefe strength of all his militarie forces. These women, after the manner of the ancient Scythian or Asiaticke Amazones, so much spoken of in histories of former times, seare off their left paps, that they might not be an hinderance vnto them in their shooting. They are most expert in warlike stratagems, and swift of foote. Their weapons are bowes and arrowes. At certaine times for generations sake they accompany with men; sending the male children home to their fathers, but keeping their daughters vnto themselves. They inhabite towards the west, not farre from the beginning of Nilus, in certaine places which themselves make choise of, and which are graunted vnto them by the fauour of the Emperour.

This empire of Monomotapa comprehendeth not onely the foresaid great island, but stretcheth it selfe farther also toward the cape of Buena esperança, as farre as the kingdomes of Butua or Toroa, which being gouerned by particular lords, do acknowledge Monomotapa for their soueraigne. Throughout all this emperours dominions is found infinite quantitie of gold, in the earth, in the rockes, and in the riuers. The gold-mines of this countrey neere vnto Sofala are those of Manica, vpon a plaine environed with mountaines; and those also in the prouince of Matuca, which is inhabited by the people called Battonghi, and situate betweene the Equinoctiall line and the Tropique of Capricorne. These mines are distant from Sofala, betweene the space of 300. and sixe hundred miles: but those of the prouinces of Boro and Quiticui are fiftene hundred miles distant towards the west. Others there are also in the kingdomes of Toroa or Butua: so that from hence or from Sofala, or from some other part of Monomotapa, some are of opinion, that *Salomons* gold for the adorning of the temple at Ierusalem, was brought by sea. A thing in truth not very vnlikely: for here in Toroa, and in diuers places of Monomotapa are till this day remaining manie huge and ancient buildings of timber, lime and stone, being of singular workmanship, the like whereof are not to be found in all the prouinces thereabouts. Heere is also a mightie wall of siue and twentie spannes thicke, which the people ascribe to the workmanship of the diuell, being accounted from Sofala siue hundred and ten miles the neere way. All other  
houses

houses throughout this empire ( as is aforesaid ) consist of timber, claie; and thatch. And heere I may boldly affirme, that the ancient buildings of this part of Africa, & along the coast of the east Indies, may not onely be compared, but euen preferred before the buildings of Europe. The authors of which ancient monuments are vnknown: but the later African buildings haue bene erected by the Arabians. In the time of *Sebastian* king of Portugale, the emperour of Monomotapa and many of his nobles were baptized: howbeit afterward being seduced by certaine Moores, hee put *Gonsaluo Silua* to death, who conuerted him to the Christian religion. Whereupon *Sebastian* king of Portugall sent against him an armie of fixteene thousand, consisting for the most part of gentlemen and men of qualitie, vnder the conduct of *Francisco Barretto*. The Monomotapa being afraid of the Portugall forces, offered *Barretto* as good and acceptable conditions of peace as might be desired: but he not contented with reason, was quite ouerthrowne, not by his enimies, but by the vnwholesome aire of Ethiopia, and by the manifold diseases which consumed his people.

\* Mine author here setteth downe too great a number.

*Casraria the fift generall part of the lower Ethiopia.*

**C**Afraria, or the land of the Casri we esteeme to be both the coasts and inlands of the extreame southerly point of Africa, beginning from the riuer Magnice, and thence extending by Cabo da pescara, Terra do Natal, Bahia da lagoa, Bahia fermosa, about the cape of Buena esperança, by the bay called Agoada Saldanha, and thence Northward along the westerne coast of Africa, as far as Cabo Negro, or the blacke cape, which is situate verie neere vnto eighteene degrees of Southerly latitude. The saide Cape of Buena esperança is deuided into three smaller headlands or capes; The westermost, being called Cabo de buena esperança, or The cape of good hope after the name of the whole promontorie, and being cut from the rest of the firme land: The middlemost is named Cabo falso, because the Portugales in their ioiage homewards from the east Indies, haue sometimes mistaken this for the true cape beforementioned; betweene which two capes runneth into the sea a mightie riuer called by the Portugales Rio dolce (where their caraks often take in fresh water) and by the naturall inhabitants Camissa, which springeth out of a small lake called Gale, situate among The mountaines of the moon so much celebrated by ancient geographers: The third and eastermost cape stretching farthest into the sea, is called Cabo das Agulhas, or the cape of Needles, because there the needles of dialles touched with the loadstone, stand directly North, without any variation either to the east or to the west: betweene this cape and the foresaid westermost cape (which ly forth into the sea like two hornes) is the bredth of this mightie promontorie, containing about fiue and twentie leagues; the length whereof from the riuer of Fernando Poo, where it be- ginneth to iuttie forth into the sea, along the westerne coast southward, to

the cape das Agulhas, amounteth to two thousand two hundred Italian miles; and from Cabo das Agulhas, along the easterne shore northward, to Cape Guardafu, are three thousand three hundred of the same miles. This cape at the first discouerie thereof was called by Navigators, The Lyon of the sea; & Cabo tormentoso, or The tempestuous cape; not so much, as I take it, for the dangerous and stormie seas more about this cape then any other; but partly in regard of the chargeable, dangerous, and long trauels of the Portugals before they could attaine vnto it; and partly bicause of the great compasse which in their voiajes outward they are constrained to fetch for the doubling thereof; and partly also in regard of some tempestuous and stormie weather wherewith they haue beene encountered at this Cape; which notwithstanding at certaine times is an ordinarie matter vpon all shores and promontories ouer the face of the whole earth. And albeit some will not come within sight of this cape, but keepe a great distance off, for feare of the dangerous seas beating thereupon (as namely *Francis de Almeida* who sailed about an hundred leagues to the south, in fortie degrees of latitude; *Pedro de Agnaia* in fortie five; and *Vasco Carualho* in fortie seuen, where in the moneth of Iuly eight of his men died for cold) yet we finde by the late and moderne experience of sir *Francis Drake*, master *Candish*, master *Lancaster* in his returne from the east Indies, and of the Hollanders in their navigations thither, begun in the yeere 1595. that those seas are at sometimes not onely free from stormie tempests, but most pleasant also to saile vpon, with faire and gentle weather. And as the Spaniards for a long time (that they might discourage all other nations from attempting navigation vpon The south sea beyond America) blinded all Christendome with a report, that the streights of Magellan were vnrepasable: so perhaps the Portugals, to terrifie all others from sailing to the east Indies, and to keepe the gaine and secrets of that rich trade entire vnto themselues, haue in their writings and relations made the doubling of the cape of Buena Esperança, and the crossing ouer those seas, a matter of farre greater difficultie and danger, then it is of late manifestly found to be. The name of Buena esperança or good hope, was giuen vnto this promontory by *John* the second king of Portugall; bicause that when his fleetes had once doubled this cape, either outward or homeward, they then stedfastly hoped in good time to performe the residue of their voiage; otherwise not. In the midst of this cape lieth a plot of ground of that beautie and delight, as that without any humane industrie it may compare with the most artificiall gardens of Europe. On the top of this place, nature minding as it were to excell her-selfe, hath framed a great plaine, which for beautifull situation, fruitfulness of herbes, varietie of flowers, and flourishing verdure of all things, seemeth to resemble a terrestriall paradise. The Portugals terme it not altogether vnfitly, The table of the cape. And to the end they might not faile of the meanes to enioy so pleasant a place, there is close vnder it a very good harbour which is called The port of Conception.

G. B. B. Rel. vn.  
dell. Afr. Parr.  
1. lib. 2.

The people of this place called in the Arabian toong *Cafrī*, *Cafres*, or *Cafates*, that is to say, lawlesse or outlawes, are for the most part exceeding blacke of colour, which very thing may be a sufficient argument, that the sunne is not the sole or chiefe cause of their blacknes; for in diuers other countries where the heate thereof is farre more scorching and intolerable, there are tawnie, browne, yellowish, ash-coloured, and white people; so that the cause thereof seemeth rather to be an hereditarie qualitie transfused from the parents, then the intemperature of an hot climate, though it also may be some furtherance thereunto. The *Hollanders* in the yeere 1595. entering the harbour of *Saint Bras*, somewhat to the east of *Cabo das Agulhas*, had conuersation & truck with some of these *Cafres*, whom they found to be a stout and valiant people, but very base and contemptible in their behauiour and apparell, being clad in ox and sheeps skins, wrapped about their shoulders with the hairie sides inward, in forme of a mantle. Their weapons are a kinde of small slender dartes or pikes, some whereof are headed with some kinde of mettrall, the residue being vnheaded, and hardened onely at the points with fire. They cover their priuie parts with a sheepes taylor, which is bound vp before and behinde with a girdle. Their horn-beasts are, like those of Spaine, verie well limmed and proportioned. Their sheepe are great and faire, not hauing any wooll on their backs, but a kinde of harsh haire like goates. Other particulars by them obserued, for breuities sake, I omit.

Now that we may proceede in describing the residue of *Cafraria*, hauing sayled about the cape of *Buena esperança* westward, albeit the coast in regard of the greatnes thereof may seem to ly directly north, yet for the space of seuentene degrees, till you come to *Cabo Negro*, (the farthest North-westerne bound of this silt part of the lower *Ethiopia*) it trendeth somewhat to the west: along which coast somewhat within the land appeareth a mighty ranke or ridge of mountaines, called by the *Portugales* *Os picos fragosos*, that is, the ragged points or spires, being besides their excessiue height, craggie, rough, and steepe, lying bare, desolate, and vtterly voide of all succour, and seruing for no other end, but for an object to the windes, and a mark for the tempests. The residue of the coast, till you come to *Cabo Negro*, sometimes lying lowe and sometimes high, sometimes shooting into the sea, and sometimes again gently retiring, containeth many plaines, hills, vallies, and places most fertile and delightful; some of them being alwaies of so fresh and pleasant view, as they seeme to represent a continuall spring.

*Os Picos fragosos.*

The sixt and last part of the lower or extreme *Ethiopia*, containing the kingdome of *Congo*; whereunto in times past were tributarie and subiect the kingdomes of *Matama*, and *Angola* to the south; the kingdomes of *Quisama*, and *Pangelungos* to the east; and to the north the kingdome of *Anzicana* inhabited by the *Anzichi*, and *Loango* peopled by the *Bramas*.



First therefore (according to our proposed order) that we may begin with the most southerly parts; The kingdome of *Matama* so called after the name of the king thereof, (who being a Gentile ruler over diuers provinces named *Quimbebe*) bordereth north vpon the first great lake whereour *Nilus* springeth, and vpon the south frontiers of *Angola*; east it abutteth vpon the western banke of the riuer *Bagamidri*; and stretcheth south as far as the riuer *Brauagul*,

*The kingdome of Matama.*

which springeth out of the mountains of the moone. This countrey standeth in a good & holesome aire, & aboundeth with mines of cristall & other metals, & hath victuals great plenty. And although the people thereof & their neighbour-borderers doe traffike together; yet the king of *Matama* and the king of *Angola* wage war oftentimes one against another: also the said riuer *Bagamidri* deuideth this kingdome of *Matama* from the great empire of *Monomotapa* before described, which lieth to the east thereof.

Next followeth *Angola*, a kingdome subiect in times past to the king of *Congo*, the gouernour whereof not verie many yeceres ago, growing exceedingly rich & mightie, rebelled against his soueraigne, & by diuers attempts shaking off the yoke of superioritie, became himselfe an absolute prince. This countrey, by reason that the people are suffered to haue as many wiues as they list, is a place most woonderfully populous. They goe whole millions of them to the warres, not leauing any men of seruice behinde: but for want of victuals they are often constrained to leaue their enterprises halfe vndone. Vpon this king, *Paulo Diaz*, who remained gouernour in these parts for the king of Portugall, waged warre: the reason was, because certaine Portugall merchants and others going by way of traffike to *Cabaza*, a towne situate an hundred and fiftie miles from the sea, where the king of *Angola* vsually resideth; they were by order from this king, the same yecere that king *Sebastian* died in Barbarie, sodainly spoiled of their goods, and part of them slaine; it being alleaged, that they were all spies, and came

*Angola.*

to vndermine the present state. Whereupon *Paulo Diaz* prouided himselfe, and with two galeots did many notable exploits on both sides of the riuer *Coanza*. Finally hauing built a forte in a very commodious and hillie ground, at the confluence or meeting of the riuer last mentioned, and the riuer *Luioia*, with a small number of Portugals, ioined to the aide sent him from the king of Congo and from certaine princes of Angola his confederates, he gaue the foresaid king (notwithstanding his innumerable troupe of Negros) diuers & sundry ouerthrowes. The said riuer *Coanza* springeth out of the lake of *Aquelunda*, situate westward of the great lake whereour *Nilus* takes his originall. In this kingdome are the mountaines of *Cabambe*, abounding with rich and excellent siluer mines; which haue ministred the chiefe occasion of all the foresaid warres. This region aboundeth also with other minerals, and with cattell of all sorts. Most true it is, that dog-flesh is heere accounted of all others the daintiest meate; for which cause they bring vp and fatten great plentie of dogs for the shambles. Yea it hath bene constantly affirmed, that a great dogge accustomed to the bull was sold in exchange of two and twentie slaues, the value of whom coulde not amount to much lesse then two hundred and twentie ducats. The priests of Angola called *Gange*, are helde in such estimation and account, as the people are verily perswaded, that they haue in their power abundance and scarcitie, life and death. For they haue knowledge of medicinable hearbes, and of deadly poisons also, which they keepe secret vnto themselues; and by meanes of their familiaritie with the diuell, they often foretell things to come.

*The siluer-mines of Cabambe.*

*Quizama.*

Towards the lake of *Aquelunda* before mentioned, lieth a countrey called *Quizama*; the inhabitants whereof being gouerned after the manner of a common wealth, haue shewed themselues very friendly to the Portugals, and haue done them speciall good seruice in their warres against the king of Angola.

*Bahia das vacas, or the bayes of Cowes.*

Thus hauing briefly pointed at the former three bordering countries, let vs now with like breuitie passe through the kingdome of Congo it selfe. This kingdome therefore (accounting Angola, as indeede it is, a member thereof) beginneth at *Bahia das vacas* in thirteene, and endeth at *Cabo da Caterina* in two degrees and an halfe of southerly latitude. True it is that the coast neere vnto the saide Bay of Cowes is subiect to the king of Congo, but the inland is gouerned by him of Angola. East and west it stretcheth from the sea in bredth as farre as the lake of *Aquelunda*, for the space of sixe hundred miles, and is diuided into sixe prouinces: namely, the prouince of *Pemba*, situate in the very hart and center of the whole kingdome; *Batta*, the most easterly prouince, where the ancient writers seeme to haue placed *Agisymba*; *Pango* which bordereth vpon the *Pangelungi*; *Sundi* the most Northerly prouince; *Sogno* which stretcheth ouer the mouth of the great riuer *Zaire*; and *Bamba* which is the principall of all the rest both for extension of ground, for riches, and for militarie forces. In the province

*The six prouinces of Congo.*

prouince of Pemba, or rather in a generall territorie by it selfe, standeth the  
 citie of Sant Saluador, in former times called Banza, being the metropolitan  
 of all Congo, and the seate of the king, situate an hundred and fiftie  
 miles from the sea, vpon a rockie and high mountaine; on the verie top  
 whereof is a goodly plaine abounding with fountaines of holesome  
 and sweete water, and with all other good things which are requisite ei-  
 ther for the sustenance, or solace of mankinde: and vpon this plaine where  
 Sant Saluador is seated there may inhabite to the number of an hundred  
 thousand persons. In this citie the Portugals haue a warde by themselves,  
 separate from the rest, containing a mile in compasse: and about that bignes  
 also is the palace or house of the king. The residue of the people dwell for  
 the most part scatteringly in villages. It is a place enriched by nature with  
 corne, cattell, fruits, and holesome springs of water in great abundance.  
 The principall riuier of all Congo called Zaire, taketh his chiefe originall  
 out of the second lake of Nilus, lying vnder the Equinoctiall line: and albeit  
 this is one of the mightiest riuers of all Africa, being eight and twentie  
 miles broad at the mouth, yet was it vtterly vnknownen to ancient writers.  
 Amongst other riuers it receiueth Vumba and Barbela, which spring out of  
 the first great lake. In this countrey are sundry other riuers also, which fetch  
 their originall out of the lake of Aquelunda: the principall whereof are Co-  
 anza, which diuideth the kingdome of Congo from that of Angola, and the  
 riuier Lelunda, which breedeth crocodiles & water-horses which the Greeks  
 call Hippopotami, of which creatures the isle of horses in the mouth of the  
 riuier Zaire taketh denomination. The Hippopotamus or water-horse is  
 somewhat tawnie, of the colour of a lion; in the night he comes on lande  
 to feed vpon the grasse, and keepeth in the water all the day time. The Afri-  
 cans tame and manage some of these horses, and they prooue exceeding  
 swift; but a man must beware how he passe ouer deepe riuers with them, for  
 they will sodainly diue vnder water. Also in these riuers of Ethiopia are  
 bred a kinde of oxen, which liue euery night vpon the lande. Here likewise  
 breedeth another strange creature, called in the Congonian language Am-  
 bizze Angulo, that is to say, a hogge-fish, being so exceeding farte, and of  
 such greatnes, that some of them weie about fife hundred pound. This  
 abundance of waters, together with the heat of the climate, which proceedeth  
 from the neerenes of the sunne, causeth the countrey to be most fruitfull of  
 plants, herbes, fruits, and corne; & much more fertile would it be, if nature  
 were helped forward by the industrie of the inhabitants. Heere also, besides  
 goates, sheepe, deere, Gugelle, conies, hares, ciuet-cats, and ostriches, are  
 great swarmes of tiges, which are very hurtfull both to man and beast.  
 The Zebra or Zabra of this countrey being about the bignes of a mule, is a  
 beast of incomparable swiftnes, straked about the body, legges, eares, and  
 other parts, with blacke, white and browne circles of three fingers broad;  
 which do make a pleasant shew. Buffles, wilde asses called by the Greekes  
 Onagri, and Dantes (of whose hard skins they make all their targets) range

S. Saluador the  
chiefs citie of  
Congo.

The great riuier  
of Zaire.

Crocodiles.

Water-horses.

The Zabra.

*The elephant.*

in heards vp and downe the woods. Also here are infinite store of elephants of such monstrous bignes, that by the report of sundrie credible persons, some of their teeth do weigh two hundred pounds, at sixteene ounces the ponnd: vpon the plaines this beast is swifter then any horse, by reason of his long steps; onely he cannot turne with such celeritic. Trees he ouerturneth with the strength of his backe, or breaketh them between his teeth; or standeth vprigh tvpon his hinder feete, to browse vpon the leaues and tender sprigs. The she elephants beare their brood in their wombes two yeeres before they bring foorth yoong ones: neither are they great with yoong, but onely from seuen yeeres to seuen yeeres. This creature is saide to liue 150. yeeres; hee is of a gentle disposition; and relying vpon his great strength, he hurteth none but such as do him iniurie; only he will in a sporting maner gently heaue vp with his snout such persons as he meeteth. He loueth the water beyond measure, and will stande vp to the mid-body therein, bathing the ridge of his backe, and other parts with his long promuscis or trunk. His skin is fower fingers thicke; and it is reported, that an elephant of this countrey being stricken with a little gunne called Pettrera, was not wounded therewith, but so sore brused inwardly, that within three daies after he died. Heere are likewise reported to be mightie addets or snakes of five and twentie spannes long, and five spans broad, which will swallow vp an whole stagge, or any other creature of that bignes. Neither are they here destitute of Indie-cookes and hens, partridges, seasants, and innumerable birds of praie, both of the lande and of the sea; whereof some diue vnder the water, which the Portugals call Pelicans.

*The isle and hauen of Loanda.*

Ouer against the most southerly part of the said kingdome of Congo, where it confineth with Angola, lyeth an Isle called Loanda, being twentie miles long, and but one mile broad at the most, betwene which and the maine land is the best port of all that Ocean. About this Isle do haunt infinite store of whales, where notwithstanding no amber at all is found; which is a manifest argument that it proceedeth not from these creatures. Here they fish for certaine little shels, which in Congo and the countries adioyning are vsed in steed of mony. The well-waters of this Isle, when the sea ebbeth, are salte, but when it floweth they are most fresh and sweet. In this Isle the Portugals haue a towne from whence they traffique to Congo and Angola: and amongst other commodities, they get euery yeere in those parts about five thousand slaues; the custome of which trade belongeth by ancient aconstitutions vnto the crowne of Portugale.

*Loango.*

To the north of Congo vpon the sea coast beginneth the kingdome of Loango tributarie in times past to the king of Congo: It aboundeth with elephants; and the inhabitants called Bramas are circumcised after the lewish manner.

*Anzichi.*

Next vpon them doe border the Anzichi, who are possessed of large countries, namely from the riuer Zaire euen to the deserts of Nubia. They abound with mines of copper, and with sanders both Red, and Gray which

are the best; and some are of opinion, that here groweth the right Lignum Aquilæ, which is of so excellent vertue in phisick. They haue one supreme king, with many princes vnder him. They traffique in Congo, and carrie home from thence salt and great shels to be vsed for coine (which are brought thither from the Isle of San Tomé) in exchange of their cloth of the palme tree, and of Iuory: but the chiefe commodities which they part from, are slaues of their owne nation and of Nubia: and the said shels they vse also insteed of Jewels and ornaments. Both they and the Bramas before mentioned do carry for their defence in the warres, certaine targets made of the skin of a beast which in Germany is called Dante: their weapons offensiue be litte bowes and shorte arrowes, which they shoot with such woonderfull celerity, as they will discharge twentie one after another, before the first arrow fall to the ground. They haue shamles of mans-flesh as wee haue of beeués and muttóns. They eat their enemies which they take in the warres: their slaues which they cannot make away for a good round price, they sell vnto the butchers: and some will offer themselues to the slaughter, for the loue of their princes and patrons: so sillie they are, that to do their lordes a pleasure, they will not refuse present death: wherefore the Portugals repose not so much trust in any kinde of slaues as in them: and they are very valiant also in the warres.

But, to returne vnto the sea-coast; from the mouth of the riuer Zaire Northward, the land bearing out somewhat more to the west, is framed into three headlands, namely, Cabo primero, Cabo da Caterina, and the cape of Lopo Gonsalues, which is a cape very well knowen in regard of the eminency and outstretching thereof. It lyeth in one degree of southerly latitude. Ouer against which cape within the land do inhabite the people called Bramas in the kingdome of Loango beforementioned. From hence for the space of fiue or sixe degrees, till you come to Punta delgada, or The slender point, the coast lyeth in a manner directly North; most of which tract is inhabited by a nation of Negros called Ambus. North of the said slender point you haue Rio dos Camarones, or the riuer of shrimpes, which is full of litte Isles; not far from which riuer are The countries of Biafar and Medra, inhabited with people which are addicted to inchantments, witchcrafts, and all kind of abominable forceries.

Much more might be said concerning this sixt part of the lower Ethiopia: but because it is in so ample and methodicall a manner described in the historie of Philippo Pigafetta, most iudiciously and aptly Englished by the learned Master *Abraham Hartwell*; I refer the reader thereunto, as to the principal and the very fountaine of all other discourses which haue bin written to any purpose of Congo and the countries adioyning.

Of the countries of Benin, Meleghete, Ghinea,  
and Sierra Leona.

Westward from the countries last mentioned lyeth the kingdome of Benin, hauing a very proper towne of that name, and an hauen called Gurte. The inhabitants liue in Idolatry, and are a rude and brutish nation; notwithstanding that their prince is serued with such high reuerence, and neuer commeth in sight but with great solemnity, & many ceremonies: at whose death his chiefe fauorites count it the greatest point of honour to be buried with him, to the end (as they vainely imagine) they may doe him seruice in another world. This countrie aboundeth with long pepper called by the Portugals Pimienta dal rabo, which is as much to say, as ppeper with a tayle: This tailed or long pepper so far excelleth the pepper of the east Indies, that an ounce therof is of more force then halfe a pound of that other. For which cause the kings of Portugale haue done what lay in them, to keep it from being brought into these parts of Europe, least it should too much abase the estimation and price of their Indian pepper. All which notwithstanding there hath bin great quantitie secretly conueied from thence by the Portugals: as likewise the English and French nations, and of late yeeres the Hollanders haue had great traffike into those parts.

Next follow the kingdomes of Temian and Dauma; and lower to the south the prouince of Meleghete, a place very famous and well knowne, in regard of a little red graine which there groweth, being in shape somewhat like to the Millët of Italy, but of a most vehement and fiery tast: and these little graines are by the apothecaries called Grana Paradisi. Here also is made ofoile and the ashes of the Palme-tree, a kind of sope, which hath double the force of ours. For which cause it is forbidden by the Portugals, who haue vpon that coast a little to the east of Cabo das tres puntas, in the northerly latitude of siue degrees, a strong castle called San Georgio de la Mina, whereunto by way of traffike they draw all the gold and riches of the countries adioining.

Westward of these lieth the countrie of Ghinea, inhabited by a people which the ancient writers called \* Autolaræ, and Ichthyophagi: Ghinea is so named, according to the chiefe citie thereof called Genni, being situate vpon the riuier of Sanega. The people of this countrie towards the sea-coast liue vpon fish; and they of the inland sustaine themselves with Lizards and such like creatures; & in some places more temperate their food consisteth of herbes and milke. They conuerse together in great families; and they fight oftentimes for water and for pastures; neither haue they anie knowledge of learning or liberall arts. So long as the sun continueth in our northren signes, that is, from the xj. of March to the xiiij. of September, this people in regard of extreme scorching heat, are constrained all the day time (being ordinarily with them of 12. howers) to retire themselves within their

houses,

Of this long pepper read Ramusius, vol. I. fol. 115. pag. 2.

The prouinces of Temian, Dauma, and Meleghete.

Grana Paradisi.

The castle of Mina.

\* Pliny calleth them Autoloies.

houses, and to do all their busines in the night. The countrey in most places is destitute of trees that beare fruite: neither haue the greatest part of the inhabitants any haire on their bodies, saue onely a thicke tuft growing vpon their heads: they sell their children vnto strangers, supposing that their estate cannot possiblie be impaired. Vnto these naturall miseries of the place, you may ad the insupportable mischiefes which are here done by the locustes: for albeit these creatures do infinite harme likewise in all the inner parts of Africa; yet seemeth it that this countrey of Ghinea is their most proper habitation; whither they do often resort in such innumerable swarmes, that like a mightie thicke cloud they come raking along in the skie, and afterward falling downe, they couer the face of the earth, deuouring all things that they light vpon. Their comming towards any place is known two or three daies before by the yellownes of the sunne. But in most places where they haunt, the poore people are reuenged of them by killing and driving them in the aire for their foode: which custome is commonly vsed by the Arabians and Ethiopians; and the Portugals also haue found vessels full of them vpon the coast of Cambaia, where they do the like mischiefes. They which haue eaten of them affirme that they are of a good taste, and that their flesh (so much as it is) is as white as that of a lobster. These may seem to be al one with those grathoppers which God sent to plague Egypt; and the same kind of locustes, which the holy prophet *John Baptist* fed vpon in the wilderness.

Moreouer along the coasts of Meleghete and Ghinea are diuers small riuers and freshets, containing little water, and running a slow pace: which notwithstanding are the best and pleasantest things that are to be founde in these forlorne countries. For wheresoever any little water springeth or runneth, thither do the people resort, partly for the watering of their scorched grounds, & partly to quench their own thirst. Also vpon these coasts are diuers and sundry headlands which stretch into the sea; as namely The faire cape, The three-pointed cape, The cape of Palmetrees, Cabo da Verga, & Sierra Leona. This cape last mentioned hath an exceeding high mountaine thereupon, which causeth it to be seene a mightie distance off. It seemeth to be the same promontorie which *Hanno* and *Ptolemey* call The chariot of the gods. It is called by the name of a lyon in regard of the dreadful thunders and lightnings which are continually heard from the top thereof: howbeit neere vnto it are found apes, munkeies, and such other beasts as liue in temperate places.

*Of Cabo verde, Senega, and Gambia or Gambea.*

**N**Orthward of Sierra Leona lieth Cabo verde, or the greene cape, called by *Ptolemey* Arsinarium, and being one of the most famous headlands in all Africa. It is enuironed with two riuers, namely the riuier of Gambia or Gambea on the south, and the riuier of Senega on the north; which last riuier is esteemed to be an arme of Ghir or Niger.

Gambia springeth out of the same fountaines assigned by *Ptolemy* vnto Niger ( which by all the ancient writers is placed heereabout ) and out of the lake of Libya. It is larger and deeper then that other of Senaga, and runneth a crooked course, receiving many lesser riuers thereinto. One hundred and eightie leagues within the mouth of this riuier the Portugals haue a factorie or place of traffique, called the factorie of Cantor. Hither by exchange of sundry wares, they draw the gold of all those countries. In the middle way (as it were) vnto the said factorie, there is a place called the isle of Elephants in regard of the huge numbers of those creatures. The riuier of Senaga is thought to take his original out of the lakes called Chelonides, It containeth certaine Isles, which in regard of their rough and ragged shape are good for nothing, but to breed adders and such like hurtfull things, and these Isles in many places make the riuier vterly in-navigable. About one hundred and fiftie leagues from the mouth thereof, it falleth spouting-wise with such maine force from certaine high cliffes or rockes, that a man may walke drie vnder the streame thereof. The Negros in their language call this place a Bowe. It is reported that Nilus doth the like at his Cataracts or ouersals. And *Strabo* writeth of certaine riuers of Hircania, which from exceeding steepe and craggie rockes gush with such violence into the Caspian sea, that whole armies may passe vnder them without danger of drowning. Into this riuier of Senaga, among many riuers vnknowne, falleth one, which passing through a red soile, is it selfe also died red: and whosoeuer drinketh of the waters first of the Red riuier, and after of Senaga, is constrained extremely to vomite. Along the bankes of this mightie riuier inhabite the blacke and barbarous nations of the Gialosi, the Tucuroni, the Caraguloni, and the Bagani. Finally it voideth into the sea at two mouths, one of which mouthes is a mile broad. And it is strange to consider, how vpon the south side of this riuier the people are blacke and well proportioned, and the soile pleasant and fertile; whereas on the north side they are browne and of a small stature, and do inhabite a barren and miserable countrie. In both the said riuers of Gambia and Senaga do breed diuers strange kindes of fishes, and other creatures of the water, as namely crocodiles, sea-horses, and winged serpents; and hither come to drinke sundry sorts of wilde beasts. The lands comprehended betweene them both, by reason of their yeerely inundation ( for from the xv. of Iune they increase fortie daies together, and are so long time decreasing, after the manner of Nilus) abound with all kinds of graine and pulse wherof the climate is capable, as namely with beanes, pease, millet, &c. but wheate, rie, barley, and grapes cannot there attaine to ripenes and perfection, by reason of ouer-much moisture: saue onely some small quantitie of wheat neere the deserts where the Caraguloni inhabite. But their chiefe sustenance is Zaburro, otherwife called Ghinie-wheate or Maiz, which they sowe after the inundation of their riuers, casting some quantitie of sande thereupon to defend it from the heate, which otherwife would scorch the grounde too

excessiuely.

A factorie of  
the Portugals.

The isle of ele-  
phants.

A mightie ca-  
taract or fall  
of Senaga.

excessively. They drinke the iuice of the palme-tree, which they cut and lance for that purpose: and this iuice not being tempered, is as strong and headie as any wine. Neither are they heere destitute of mightie adders, of lions, leopards, and elephants: but beasts for labour they haue none, saue onely a small kinde of oxen, and goates. The horses which are brought thither by merchants, liue but a short time. The aire, by reason of abundance of lakes bredde by the ouerflowes of their riuers, is moist and grosse. And heere fall most vnholesome and palpable dewes. It raineth in these countries from October till the end of Iuly, eüery day about noone, with thunder and lightning.

All the kingdomes and countries by vs before described, from the cape of Buena esperança, to the riuier last mentioned, are inhabited by blacke people. The most northerly are the Gialofi, who spread themselues between the two foresaid riuers for the space of fīue hundred miles eastward: so that the riuier Senaga is the vtmost northren bound of Negros, or nations extremely blacke; howbeit vpon the bankes thereof are found people of sundry colours, by reason of the varietie of women.

Betweene this riuier of Senaga and Cabo blanco, or the white cape, lieth a countrey called by some Anterote, being all ouer in a manner sandy, barren, lowe, and plaine; neither is there in all this distance any place of account or reckoning, saue onely the isles of Arguin (whereof we will intreat among the isles of Africa) and a territorie or towne sixe daies iourney within the maine, called Hoden. This towne is not walled, but lieth open, and consisteth of the wandring Arabians rude and homely habitations, being notwithstanding a place of Rendeuous or meeting for all such as trauell in Carouans from Tombuto, and other places in the lande of Negros to Barbarie. The principall food of the inhabitants heere, are dates and barley, both which the soile yeeldeth indeed, but not in so plentifull a manner: and they drinke the milke of camels & of other beasts, for wine they haue none at all. These people are Mahumetans, and most deadly enimies to Christians: neither abide they long in any place, but runne rouing and wandring vp and downe those deserts. They are themselues very populous, and haue abundance of camels, vpon whose backes they carrie copper, siluer, and other commodities from Barbarie to Tombuto, and to the residie of the land of Negros.

*Ramusius vol. 1. fol. 99.*

From Cabo blanco to the regions of Sus, and Hea (which are the first prouinces described by *John Leo*) excepting a small portion onely of Biledulgerid, you haue nothing but part of the vast, fruitles, & uninhabitable desert of Libya, called by the Arabians Sarra, which stretcheth from the westerne Ocean as farre as the frontiers of Egypt.

Thus from the very bottome of the Red sea, hauing coasted along the easterne and westerne shores of the most southerly partes of Africa, and briefly described all the principall knowen empires, kingdomes, and regions within that maine, which are left vntouched by our author *John Leo*;

let

let vs now with like or more breuitiee prosecut the description of the islands which are by the hand of the omnipotent creator planted round about this ample and spacious continent.

A brieue enumeration and description of all the most famous and knowne Islandes situate round about the coasts of Africa, which haue beene omitted by I O H N

LEO: beginning first with the most northeasterly, and so by little and little bringing our selues about the Cape of Buena Esperança neerer vnto Europe.

*The Islands of the Red sea.*



On the shores of the Red sea, as well on the African as on the Arabian side, are euerie where beset with many small islets and rockes, which lie so thicke together, that they make the navigation all along the said coasts to be most dangerous and difficult.

The isles of the Red sea most woorthie to be remembered, are these following. *Babelmandel* a little isle situate in the very mouth of the Red sea, in twelue degrees, containeth two leagues in compasse, being from either of the firme lands three miles distant, and standing about twentie paces high out of the water. By *Ptolemy* it is called The isle of *Diodorus*. Vpon this isle, or one of the continents adioining, are to be hired the most experimēted pilots for al that narrow sea, euen as far as *Suez*. And from the easterne and westerne side of this islet, *Strabo* reporteth that the twofold enterance of the Arabian Gulfe was barred with a double chaine. More to the north standeth *Camaran*, being about eight leagues from the Arabian coast in fiftene degrees of latitude. Vpon this isle are to be seene great ruines of ancient buildings. It hath one indifferent good hauen, and aboundeth with fresh water, (a thing most precious and acceptable in those parts) with salt, and with cattell. On the other side towards *Africa*, in fiftene degrees and an halfe, standeth the isle of *Dalagua* of about thirtie miles in circuite, which space is almost contained in the length thereof, being a place very famous for the abundance of pearles which are there caught; wherewithall likewise the isle of *Mua* neere vnto it is richly endowed. Next followeth *Mazua* in forme like to an halfe moone, and not

about

*Babelmandel.*

*The isle of  
Camaran.*

*Dalagua.*

*Mua.  
Mazua.*

about a bow-shoot distant from the African maine : betweene which isle and the continent, there is an excellent haven which is now the only porte that *Prete Ianni* hath in all his dominions; for which (as you may read before in the description of the said princes empire) his lieutenant *Barnagasso* is constrained to pay a great yeerely tribute to the Turke.

Over against Mazua, vpon the firme, standeth the towne of *Ercoco*. Vpon this little isle are diuers houses of Arabians, built of lime and stone; and others of claie couered with thatch. North of Mazua standeth *Suaquen* in a certain lake made by the sea, which there insinuateth it selfe within the land, and frameth a most secure and commodious haven. On this small islet is built the faire and stately citie of *Suaquen*, being almost as large as the isle it selfe; wherein resideth the Turkes lieutenant or *Bassa* of *Abassia*.

*The isle, haven, and citie of Suaquen.*

*Of the Isle of Socotera and other isles lying without the narrow entrance of the Arabian gulfe.*

Without the streight of *Babelmandel* there are no islands woorthy of mention, saue onely *Socotera*; which (as *Iohn Barros* supposeth) was of old called by *Ptolemy* *Dioscoridis*, & lieth in sight of cape *Guardafu*, which the same author nameth *Aromata Promōtorium*. Being about threescore miles long, and five and twentie miles broad, it is diuided with a rough and exceeding high ridge of mountaines, and is subiect vnto most terrible and boisterous windes, which do out of measure dry and parch the same. For which cause, and in regard of the slothfull rudenes of the inhabitants, it is very scarce of victuals: for it yeeldeth neither wheate, rice, wine, nor hony. In the vallies and places of shelter it affordeth some quantitie of *Miller*, of dates, and of sundrie kinds of fruits: neither is it altogether destitute of pasture for cattell. It is frequented by merchants for \* *Cinabre*, *Sanguis Dra-*

\* *Or vermillion.*

*Two townes of the Portugales in Socotera.*

*conis*, and the most excellent *Aloës* of the world. It hath no haven of importance. The Portugals are heere possessed of two small townes, one called *Coro*, and the other *Benin*; and here in times past the king of *Farrac* [*A countrey of Arabia Felix*,] had a castle & a garrison of soldiers vpon this isle, which castle being taken by the Portugals, was afterward by them abandoned, bicause it quited not the cost. The inhabitants being of a browne colour, and of a good constitution; are in religion a kind of Christians. They hold an opinion that *Saint Thomas* suffred shipwracke vpon this isle, and that of his ship was built a most ancient church, which as yet is to be seene walled round about, with three allies or partitions, and three doores.

Furthermore they liue for the most part in caues or in cabins made of boughes, very farre from the sea. They go apparrelled in course cloth, or in the skins of beastes. In war their weapons are slings, and swordes made of base iron: and the women are as good soldiers as the men. They are much addicted vnto *Magick* and *inchantments*, and doe bring to passe matters incredible. They haue no vse at all of *nauigation*, nor of *traffique*, and yet for-

sooth

sooth they esteeme themselues the most noble and worthy people vnder the heauens; as also they are vtterly voide of learning: which I doe note, because that such as are learned make but small account of their wisdome.

*The two sisters.* To the North of Socotera are two small Isles which are called the two sisters: the inhabitants whereof being of an oliue-colour, liue without lawe, and haue no conuersation with any other people. The commodities of these Islets are Iuorie, amber, Sanguis draconis, Aloës, and a kind of pretious stones called Nizzolij.

Likewise ouer against Socotera are two other Islets, one called the Isle of men, and the other the Isle of women, being distant thirtie miles asunder, and siue miles from Socotera. They are so termed, because that in the one dwell men onely, and in the other women. Howbeit they visite one another at certaine seasons: but they cannot stay one in the Isle of another about three moneths, in regarde of a secret qualitie of the ayer which is contrary to either sexe. A matter (if it be true) most strange and admirable.

*Of the Isles lying in the sea called Sinus Barbaricus, ouer against the Easterne and Southeasterne shore of Africa.*

**A**ll along from the cape of Guardafu to the cape of Buena Esperança are found sundry Islands, partly disperfed heere and there in the sea, and partly adioining vpon the firme land. Such as are far into the sea, are the greatest part vnhabited, as namely, the Isle of Don Garçia, The three and The \*seuen brethren, As rocas partidas, the Isles of Sant Brandan, and those of Mascarenha, of Sant Francis, of Santa Apollonia, of Iohn de Lisboa, of Cosmoledo: and betwene the great Isle of Saint Laurence and the maine, the Isles Do Nâral or of the nauitiue, as likewise the three Isles of Comoro, with those of Alioa, of Spirito Santo, and of saint Christopher.

*Isles which are not inhabited.*

*Concerning the isles of Mòbaga, Quiloa, & Mombambique read more at large in the discourse of Zanguebar before set downe, whereas I thought it meet to intreat of them, being (as it were) certaine fragments of the maine, & hauing large territories thereof subiect vnto them.*

But of those which the vicinity of the firme land hath made more noble and frequented, the first that offereth it selfe to our consideration, is the Isle of Mombaza in foure degrees of southerly latitude, cut out by a certaine chanel or arme of the sea, which deuideth the same from the maine of Africa: in compasse it containeth twelue miles; and at the entrance of the saide chanel, vpon a downe, standeth the city of Mombaza, built very handsomely after the Arabian fashion. Somewhat farther from the continent are situate the Isles of Pemba, Zanzibar, and Monfia inhabited by Negros; the greatest of which is Zanzibar, the prince whereof is called by the name of a king; and it lyeth vnder sixe degrees of south latitude, being from the main ten leagues distant. But the foueraigne of all these Isles was Quiloa, inhabited like the rest, with Mahumetans of little bodies and abiect mindes. It aboundeth with rice, millet, cattel, woods of palme-trees, limons, oranges, & sugar-canes; whereof notwithstanding they are ignorant how to make sugar. The city standeth vpon the sea-shore ouer against the firme land: it is built of

pure marble, and the streetes are very narrow: a thing common among the Arabians, whereby they vse to defend themselves, after the enimie hath once entered, their townes. From this Isle to Moçambique are about an hundred leagues. Without the porte lieth Misa, and three miles off Songo and Canga inhabited by Moores. Next follow As Ilhas do Açotado, or The isles of the scourged, bicause here a certaine pilot that was a Moore, who had determined to wracke the whole flecte of *Vasco da Gama*, receiued pnnishment. Concerning Moçambique called by *Ptolemey* and other ancient writers Prassia, we haue intreated before. Fower miles from thence lie the desert isles of Saint George: and then the isles of Angoscia inhabited by Moores. These are stored with indifferent quantitie of victuals: and here vpon an east winde they gather plentie of Ambergrise. An hundred and fiftie miles from Cabo dos corrientes, lieth A Ilha das vacas, or The isle of Cowes, with a castle thereupon, and store of good water. As Ilhas llanas, or The plain's isles are not woorth the speaking of. A Ilha da cruz, otherwise called Ilha das fontanhas, was the farthest limite of *Bartholomew Diaz* his navigation, who was the first Portugale that euer doubled the cape of Buena esprança, and hauing doubled it, returned backe without discovering any farther.

Plentie of Ambergrise.

*Of the Isle of Saint Laurence, otherwise called Madagascar.*

**T**His isle called by the Portugales The isle of Sant Laurence, by the naturall inhabirans Madagascar, by *Paulus Venerus* Magastar, by *Ptolemey* Menuthias, and by *Plinie* Cerne, is accounted one of the greatest, noblest, and richest in the whole world. About the midst thereof it approacheth towards the maine of Africa, in forme of an elbowe, being distant from thence an hundred threescore and ten miles. The extreames of this isle are very farre separate from the saide maine, and especially that which stretcheth toward the northeast. The whole isle containeth in bredth fower hundred and fowerscore, in length one thousand two hundred, and in compasse fower thousand miles; so that in bignes it farre exceedeth Italy, though it be not so well inhabited and manured. Situate it is beyond the Equator in seuteene degrees, and stretcheth from thence to fixe and twentie degrees and an halfe of southerly latitude. It is plentifully endowed with all things needfull for mans vse: for it yeeldeth cotton, Millet, Rice, Potatos, sweete oranges, sugar-canes, and sundry kindes of pulse: as likewise, amber, Iette, siluer, copper, red sanders, saffron, a spice somewhat like vnto cloues, and some quantitie of ginger. Moreouer, heere are lions, leopards, stags, roe-deere, goates, kine, sheepe, and other beastes both tame and wilde. Heere are likewise innumerable elephants, so that from hence is conueied great quantitie of iuorie. They haue also great store of camels, whose flesh the inhabitants eat for the holesomenes thereof. The people (except

some few Moores vpon the coast) are idolaters, of colour black, with curled haire, very barbarous, and in fashions resembling much the Cafres. They go naked all saue their priuities, which they couer with cloth of cotton: and they vse in the warre certaine crooked staues headed with bone. The Iesuits in their letters report, that in one part of this isle there are white people found; who (as they affirme) are descended from the people of China; whereby may be gathered the great length of the Chinians navigations, and the largenes of their empire. The Portugals sailing towards India in due time, do passe betweene this great isle and the firme land; but if the season groweth towards winter, they holde on their course (as themselues report) on the backe-side thereof. In these two courses of nauigation they haue found, and daily do discouer sundrie isles, but of small account, part whereof we haue mentioned before. Amongst others, as it were ouer-against Moçambique, lieth on a certaine strand or shold an isle called Langane of a reasonable bignes, with a great riuer therein, being inhabited by Moores. And the farthest toward the west are those isles which the Portugals call Os Romeros. On the northeast part of this isle is the Bay of Antogill, being one of the safest and most commodious harbours in the world.

*Of the Isles of the Ethiopian sea about the cape  
of Buena esperança.*

**T**His sea I take to be most exceeding deepe, because it hath fewer Isles then the former, and those few which it hath are but little ones. The first that was discouered on this side the cape of Buena Esperança is that of Don Alvarez, situate in thirtie degrees and an halfe. And to the northwest of that is the Isle of Tristan d' Acunna beeing distant 1500. miles from the cape, and beyond the Equinoctiall eight and thirtie degrees; which beeing of a round forme, containeth in compasse fiftie leagues. It is full of birdes, and especially of sea-crowes or cormorants, and round about it lie foure other small islets. The marriners hold, that neere vnto this isle, as vnto that of Bermuda, there are continual stormes and tempestes. Not far from the main are certaine dry and rockie isles, and others of none account.

*The Isles of Santa Helena, and of the Ascension.*

**N**Ext followeth in the height of sixteene degrees of southerly latitude the isle of Santa Helena, discouered by *Iuan da Noua*, being so fitly and commodiously situate for such as returne home from the east Indies into Europe, as it seemeth there of purpose to haue beene planted by God for the furtherance of this voiage, and for the refreshing and comfort of nauigators, In compasse it containeth nine miles, & hath a most perfect health-  
full

full aire, and sundry freshets of excellent water. The soile is of a red colour, and like vnto ashes; it giueth way to ones footing like sand; and a man may shake euery tye vpon the isle. Heere the kings of Portugall haue enacted, that none may remaine to inhabite, except it be sometime two or three sicke persons for the recouerie of their health; to the end that the fleets may heere plentifully and of free cost furnish themselues with fresh victuals, fruits, and water. So that when they arriue, they vsually plant or sow some one thing or other, which presently springeth and groweth to ripenes; and then the seed falling into the earth, it multiplieth of it selfe. Heere are woods of Eban and Cedar, with infinite store of limons, oranges, and all sorts of fruits; as likewise hogs, geese, hens, partridges, seafants, Guinie-cocks, and other like creatures brought thither by the Portugals out of Europe, or from other countries. In sailing from Portugall toward India it is not so easily found; but in their returne home they do heere in fewe daies cure all their diseases, and relieue their wants: and heere to their vnspeakable solace and recreation they hunt, foule, and fish, and prouide themselues of water, wood, and all things necessaric. To the west thereof appeere in the sea the isles of Santa Maria, and of the Trinitie, which serue for signes vnto the mariners. To the northwest of this isle, towards the coast of Brasil, are the isles of Ascension, so called bicause they were first discovered by *Tristan Ascension*. *Scunna* in his returne from the Indies vpon Ascension day in the yeere 1508. They are all vnhabited and desert, and haue vpon them infinite swarmes of a kinde of fowles of the bignes of duckes.

*Of the Isles of Loanda, Nobon, and Saim Thomas.*

**H** Ard vpon the firme land of the south part of Congo, is situate the isle of\* Loanda before mentioned. And ouer against the cape of Lopo Gonfalués in a manner, lieth the small isle of Nobon, being a rockie and desolate place, but of great importance for fishing; for which cause it is frequented by the inhabitants of Saint Thomas isle. This isle of Saint Thomas being an hundred and fower-score miles distant from the maine, is of a round forme, containing threescore Italian miles from side to side, and an hundred and fower-score miles in also compasse: of which isle (bicause it is situate iust vnder the Equinoctiall, so that the horizon thereof passeth by both the poles) it will not be from our purpose to intreat somewhat at large; to the end we may the better vnderstand the qualitie and temperature of such places as are seated in that part of the world. This isle when it was first discovered was nothing else but a woode of vnprofitable trees, with their boughs turning crookedly vpward. The aire is extremely hot: in the moneths of March and September, when the sunne passeth perpendicularly ouer, it raineth heere out of measure, and in other moneths heere falleth onely a moist dewe which watereth the ground. In the verie midst it hath a woodie mountaine, which is continually ouershadowed with a thick cloud,

\* Concerning this isle read more at large in the description of Congo.

cloud, which cloud so moistneth the trees that grow in great abundance vpon this mountaine, that from hence droppeth water sufficient for the watering of al their fields of sugar-canes. By how much the sun is more perpendicular ouer this isle, by so much is the aire more cloudie & darke; and contrariwise, the farther it is distant from perpendicularitie, the cleeret and brighter is the skie. In the moneths of December, Ianuarie, and Februarie, such as are borne in Europe, can very hardly walke or mooue themselves for faintnes: and all the rest of the yeere, once in eight or ten daies, they seeme to be taken with an hot and a cold fit of an ague, which continueth vpon them for tow howers together. They are thrice or oftner let-bloud euerie yeere: and few of them liue aboute fiftie yeeres; but their Negros remaine more then an hundred yeers aliuie. They which newly arriue there, are commonly surprized with a most dangerous feauer, which holdeth them for twentie daies together. And these are let blond, without any reckoning of ounces. Heere blow no windes at all, but onely from the southeast, south, and southwest, which windes stire not in the moneths of December, Ianuarie, and Februarie, and therefore these moneths are most extremely hot. But in Iune, Iuly, and August, they blow a fresh gale. In this isle the French euill, and the scuruies are verie rife. The soile is of a meane colour betweene red and yellow, being clammy like claie, and by reason of the continuall nightly dewes, as soft and pliable as waxe, and of incredible fertility. Besides diuers other good ports, it hath one principall among the rest, belonging to the chiefe towne or citie called \* Pauoasan, consisting of aboute seuen hundred families, and inhabited by Portugals, and into the saide port runneth a little riuer of excellent water.

\* Or perhaps Pauoacan, which (as I constructure) may be all one with Poblacion in Spanish, which signifieth a Colonie or towne.

Seuentie Ingenios in San Tomé.

To euery of the Ingenios or sugar-houses (which in all may amount to the number of seuentie) do belong Negro-slaues, for the planting of their canes and the dressing of their sugars, to some, two hundred, and to others, three hundred a piece, who liue vpon Maiz or Ghiny-wheat: the number of which slaues is so great, that oftentimes they rebell, to the great damage of the Portugals. They haue good sustenance also by meanes of a root, called there Igname, but in the west Indies Batata. Wheat that is heere sowed, groweth not to any ripenes or graine, but is resolued altogether into grasse. They make wine of the Palme-tree. Vines prosper nothing kindly in this place, except it be heere and there one, planted by an house-side, and attended with great diligence. They bring forth clusters at the same time, some ripe, some Greene, and some blossomes onely; and they beare fruit twice in the yeere, as doe the fig-trees likewise. They haue sugar-canes ripe all the yeere long: but melons onely in Iune, Iuly, and August. No tree that beareth fruit with a stone or kernell will fructifie or prosper in this place. Here are found all ouer the Isle certaine crabs or creuises like vnto them of the sea; heere be likewise gray parots, and infinite other birds of diuers sortes; and in the sea are mightie store of whales, especially toward the firme land. The principall riches of this isle consist in sugars, whereof there groweth

great

great abundance. The sugar-canes are planted and cut euery moneth, and in fiue months they grow to ripenes, but by reason of the moistnes of the ayer, they neither prooue hard nor white, but are of a reddish colour. The tenths which belong to the king amount to the number of 12. or 14. thousand Arrovas, euery Arrova being one and thirtie Italian pound-weight. In times past there were fortie ships yeerely laden therewith; but now of late certaine wormes which eat the roots of the canes, or (as others think) white antes or mise, haue so mightily impaired the growth of this commodity, that now there are not aboute fixe ships laden therewith. The sugar-canes, after they be once ground, they giue vnto their hogges, wherewith they prooue fat, and their flesh is very sauory. For returne of sugars, the merchants of Europe carry thither meale, wine, swordes, oile, cheefe, hides, drinking glasse, and certaine shels, which there and in the countries adioining they vse instead of mony. Of the coniunction betweene the men of Europe and the Negro women are bred a generation of browne or tawnie people.

This Isle of Saint Thomas together with the principal towne and castle, was in October 1599 taken by part of the same fleet of Hollanders, which not fullie foure moneths before had sacked the isles, castles and townes of Gran Canaria and Gomera.

*Of the Isle del principe, and that of Fernando Po.*

**T**He Isle del principe or of the prince, situate in three degrees of Northerly latitude, and one hundred twentie miles on this side the isle of Sant Thomas, is little in quantitie, but excellent in qualitie: for which cause it is thoroughly tilled and manured. The revenues thereof (which consist the greatest part in sugars) were in times past allowed vnto the prince of Portugall; whereupon it was named The isle of the prince.

This Isle was in the yeere 1598 taken by certaine ships of war sent forth vnder the conduct of *Iulianus Clerehagen* at the charges of *Balthasar Musheron* of Camphere in Zeland merchant, who had the conquest thereof giuen him by patent from Prince *Maurice*, and the States generall of the vnited prouinces.

That of *Fernando Po* hath no other matter of speciall note, saue onely a certaine lake which is the originall of sundry freshets of sweete and wholesome water, which make the island to be most pleasant. It seemed so beautifull to the first discouerer thereof, that he termed it *Ilha fermosa*, or The faire isle.

To the west of these two isles are situate the isle of Sant Matthew, and that of Santa Cruz; and afterward hauing passed the Equinoctial, you come to the isle of Sant Paule, and the isle of conception, both which were discouered by *Pedro Aluarez Cabral* in the yeere 1501.

## Of the isles of Cabo verde.

**N**EXT vnto Cape verde it selfe stand The Barbacene which are seuen small isles replenished with greene trees, and full of strange biras vnkowne to vs; and yet are they vtterly void of inhabitants. But those that are called the isles of Cape verde (which by ancient authors are thought to haue bin named Gorgones, or Gorgades, or Hesperides) are nine in number, and are situate betweene Cabo verde and Cabo blanco. They were first discouered by *Antonio di Nollis* a Genoway, and began in like sort to be peopled, in the yeere of our Lord 1440. Albeit there are none of them now inhabited, but onely the isle of Sant Iago, and *Isla del fogo* or The burning isle. The principall of them all is Sant Iago being seuentie miles long, whereon the Portugals haue a faire and strong towne called *Ribera grande*, with a riuer running through it, and a commodious and secure haue: it is very strongly seated betweene two mountaines, and consisteth of fife hundred families at the least. The riuer (which springeth two leagues from the city) is beautified vpon the bankes thereof with Cedars, Orange-trees, and diuers other plants, amongst which the Palme tree of India that beareth nuts, prospereth exceeding well. The hearbes of Europe grow here as naturally as in their original soile; howbeit the seeds thereof must euery yeere be brought out of Spaine. The isle is generally vneuen and mountainous: but the valleis are passing fertile, and throughly inhabited: and here is sowed abundance of rice and Saburro, which groweth to ripenes in fortie daies. Howbeit the soile will beare no wheat. Here is store of cotton also, the cloth whereof is disperfed along the coast of Africa. The shee-gotes here, as likewise in all the isles adiacent, bring forth three and more kids at a birth, euery foure moneths. When the sunne is in Cancer, it raineth here in a manner without ceasing.

To the west of Sant Iago stand the isles of Fogo and Braua being but of small importance (albeit that of Fogo is in some parts thereof inhabited) and to the North of the same is situate the isle of Maio, where there is a lake of two leagues long, which is full of salt; the which is a common thing in all these islands; but in one, more then in any of the other, in that it is full of such like salt-pits, and is therefore called The island of salt, being destitute of all other liuing things, saue onely of wild gotes. The isle of Buena vista hath a name contrary to the quality; for it is without all shew of beauty. Of the others I haue nothing woorthie the obseruation.

This towne was taken by sir Francis Drake 1585. and by sir Antonie Sherley 1596.

## Of the Isles of Arguin.



Little to the south or on the backside of Cabo blanco, within a certaine gulfe or baie which entereth thirtie miles into the maine, lie the isles of Arguin, which were discouered in the yeere 1443. so called after the name of the principall of them, which hath great store of fresh water, whereof all the residue are destitute. Heere the king of Spaine hath a fortresse, for the traffique of gold and other rich commodities of those countries. These isles are sixe or seuen in number, all little ones, being inhabited by the Azanaghi, who liue of fish, whereof there is plentie in that baie. They go to sea in certaine small botes which they call Almadies. The names of the other isles (as farre as I coniecture) are The isle of Penguins, The isles of Nar, Tider, and Adeget.

## Of the Isles in the Atlantick Ocean, and first of the Canaries.

For so the isles named of olde *Insule fortunatæ* (which euer since the decay of the Romaine empire, till within these two hundred yeeres, lay vndiscouered) are at this present called. They are in number twelue, (although the ancient writers make mention but of sixe) that is to say, Canaria, Lançarotta, Fuerte ventura, Hierro, Palma, Gomera, Santa Clara, Isla de lobos, La Roca, Gratiofa, Alegrança, and Inferno. They generally abound with barley, sugar, hony, goates, cheese, hides, and Orchel, being a herbe commodious to die cloth withall, and whereof they make great merchandise. Amongst other beasts they haue also camels. The natural inhabitants of the countrey are of a good disposition, and notable agilitie; but before they were discouered, they were so grosse and rude, as they knewe not the vse of fire. They beleued in one creatour of the world, who punished the euill, and rewarded the good; and in this point they all consented, but in other matters they were very different. They had no iron at all, but yet esteemed it much when any came to their hands, for the vse thereof. They made no account of gold or siluer, iudging it a folly to esteem of that mettall, which could not serue for mechanicall instruments. Their weapons were stones and staues. They shaued their heads with certaine sharpe stones like to flint. The women would not willingly nurse their owne children, but caused them to be suckled by goates. They were and are at this day delighted with a kinde of dance which they vse also in Spaine and in other places, and because it tooke originall from thence, it is called The Canaties. From hence also they bring certaine birds which sing at all times of the yeere. The greatest of all these isles is the \*Gran Canaria, containing fower-score and ten miles in circuit, and it hath the number of nine thousand inhabitants.

\*This isle with the principall towne and castles was sacked by the Hollanders in Iune Anno 1599.

Tenerif

The Pike of  
Tenerif.

Tenerif is not altogether so great. This is esteemed one of the highest islands in the world, by reason of a mountaine therein of the forme of a diamond, being (as it is reported) fifteene leagues high, & it may be seene more then threescore leagues off. Hierro hath neither spring nor well, but is miraculously furnished with water by a cloud which ouer-spreadeth a tree, from whence distilleth so much moisture, as sufficeth both for men and cattell. This cloud ariseth an hower or two before the sunne, and is dissolved two howers after sunne rising. The water falleth into a ponde made at the foote of the tree. The isle of Palma is little, but beautifull, and abundant in sugar, wine, flesh, and cheefe: wherefore such ships as go from Spaine to Terra firma, and Brasil, do there ordinarily prouide themselues of fresh victuall. It is from Lisbon a thousand miles by sea, being much subiect to tempests, and especially those which come from the northwest.

Of these islands Lançarota, Hierro, and Gomera are in the hands of priuate men: the others belong to the crowne.

*Of the Isles of Madera and Puerto santo.*

Madera in Span-  
nish signifieth  
wood or timber.

**M**Adera is the greatest and most principal of all the isles in the Atlantick Ocean. It standeth in two and thirtie degrees and an halfe, fortie miles to the southwest of Puerto santo. So it is called, because at the first discoverie thereof it was all ouergrown with mightie thick woods. Wherefore, to waste the said woods, and to make it fit to be manured, the first discoverers set them on fire, which continued burning (as some report) for the space of certaine yeeres together: whereupon it grew so exceeding fertile, that of corne it yeeldeth sixtie folde for one: and for a certaine space the fiftie part of the sugars amounted yeerely to threescore thousand Arrovas (one of which Arrovas containeth fiue and twentie pounds of sixteene ounces the pound) but now it cometh not to the one halfe of that reckoning. This isle containeth in compasse an hundred & sixtie miles. It is dived into foure regions or quarters, that is to say Comerico, Santa Cruz, Funcial, and Camara de los Lobos. It aboundeth with water: and besides diuiners & sundry fountaines, it hath eight small riuers which make it as fruitfull and pleasant as a garden. It yeeldeth euery thing in such perfection, that *Cadamo* (in regard of their excellency) affirmeth all commodities which are there gathered, to be gold. It produceth infinite store of fruits, excellent wines, and sugars which cannot be matched. Heere is likewise great abundance of cedars, whereof are made fine chestes and other works of account: for which purpose there are diuers sawing milles vpon the foresaid riuers. This isle is very scarce of oile and of corne. The head or principall citie hereof is Funcial, being the seat of an archbishop who hath 8000. ducates of reueneue. Here are two fortresses built which command the hauen.

Puerto santo,  
the principall  
towne whereof

Fortie miles to the northeast of Madera lieth the isle of Puerto santo, so called because it was discovered vpon the day of all saints, in the yeere 1428.

It containeth in compasse fifteene miles, and aboundeth with oxen, wilde swine, and hopie; and yeeldeth wheat sufficient for the vse of the inhabitants. Heere groweth a fruite in bignes and shape like vnto a cherry, but of a yellow colour. The tree that beareth this fruit being cut neere the roote with certaine strokes of an hatchet, putteth foorth the yeere following a kinde of gum which is called Sanguis Draconis.

*was taken by  
sir Amias Pre-  
ston 1596.*

The generation of one shee-cony bigge with yoong, brought hither out of Portugale at the first inhabiting of this isle, did in short time so exceedingly increase, that the inhabitants were quite out of hope euer to repaire the ruine and waste which they committed. At this present there is a small isle neere vnto Puerto santo which breedeth nothing but conies.

*The wonderful  
increase of one  
shee-conie.*

Vnto all these might be added such isles as lie neere the African coast within the streights of Gibraltar: the principall whereof (as namely Pennon or The little rocke ouer against Velles de Gumerá, with the isle of Gerbi, &c.) because they are largely described by *John Leo*. I hold it a matter meere-ly vaine and superfluous in this place to stande vpon them.

*An approbation of the historie ensuing, by me*

RICHARD HAKLVYT.



Being moued to publish mine opinion as touching this present Historie of *John Leo*; I do hold and affirme it to be the verie best, the most particular, and methodicall, that euer was written, or at least that hath come to light, concerning the countries, peoples, and affaires of Africa. For which cause, and knowing well the sufficiency of the translator, my selfe was the first and onely man that perswaded him to take it in hand. Wherein how diligently and faithfully he hath done his part, and how he hath enlarged and graced this Geographicall historie out of others, the best ancient and moderne writers, by adding a description of all those African maine lands and isles, and other matters verie notable, which *John Leo* himselfe hath omitted: I referre to the consideration of all iudiciall and indifferent Readers.

*Richard Hakluyt.*



Nto this approbation of master *Richard Hakluyt*, I holde it not altogether amisse to adioine the testimonies of certaine moderne writers, the most approoued and famous for their skill in Geographie and historie, which they haue also purposely set downe in commendation of this author of ours *John Leo*.

First therefore master *John Baptista Ramusius*, Secretarie to the State of Venice, and a man of singular iudgement and diligence in these matters, in his epistle Dedicatorie before the third edition of his first volume of voia- ges, speaking of the manifold difficulties which he vnderwent to bring the important discourses therein, to light, writteth vnto learned *Fracastorius* in manner following.

*Oltra che gli essemplari che mi son venute alle mani, &c.*

**M**OREouer (saith he) those copies which haue come to my hands, haue beene extremely fowle and vncorrect; a matter sufficient to discourage the minde of any man, though neuer so forward and resolute, were it not sustained by considering what vnspeakable delight these discourses will breed vnto all those that are studious in Geography; and most especially this of Africa written by *John Leo*. Concerning which part of the world, euen till these our daies, we haue had no knowledge in a manner out of any other authour, or at leastwise neuer any information so large, and of so vndoubted truth. But what do I heere speake of the delight which those that are learned and studious shall reape heereby? Asthough it were not a matter which will afford also very much satisfaction vnto the greatest Lords and Princes? Whom it concerneth more then any other to know the secrets and particularities of this African part of the world, together with the situations of all the regions, prouinces, and cities thereof, and the dependences, which the princes and people haue one towards another. For albeit they may haue some aduertisements & instructions from others that haue personally trauailed these countries, & may think their writings & discourses to be very large; yet am I well assured, that hauing once read this booke of *John Leo*, and throughly considered the matters therein contained and declared, they will esteeme the relations

ons of all others, in comparison of this, to be but briefe, vnperfect, and of little moment: so great will be the fruit which to their exceeding contentment, all readers shall reape heereby, &c. Thus farre *Ramusius*.

*Abraham Ortelius before his generall  
mappe of Africa hath these  
wordes.*

*Ex recentioribus, &c.*

**A**mong the late writers ( for your more perfect knowledge of Africa ) you must read *Aloisius Cadamosta*, *Vasco da Gama*, and *Francis Alvarez*, who trauailed Ethiopia; *Sed omnium accuratissime &c.* but of all others you haue it most exactly described by *John Leo*.

*Also the same author before his map of  
Barbary and Biledulgerid.*

**B**Vt (saith he) concerning these regions and people, you shall finde a most exquisite description in the Historie of *John Leo*, &c.

*The opinion of IOHN BODIN in the fourth  
chapter of his method of reading Hi-  
stories concerning this  
our author.*

*Ita quoque Leo Afer, genere Maurus, &c.*

**S**O likewise *Leo Afer* by descent a More, borne in Spaine, in religion a Mahumetan, and afterward a Christian, hauing by continuall iournies trauelled almost ouer all Africa; as al-  
fo

so ouer Asia minor, and a good part of Europe, was taken by certaine pirates, and presented vnto pope *Leo* the tenth: vnder whom he translated into Italian all those things which with incredible studie and diligence he had written in the Arabick toong, concerning Africa, the manners, lawes, and customes of the African people, and the situation and true description of the whole countrey. Their militarie discipline he lightly passeth ouer: and briefly mentioneth the conflicts and victories of famous warrions, without any orations or ornaments of speech, rather like a Geographer then a Chronicler: and with a perpetuall delight of new and strange things, he doth (as it were) perforce detain his Reader, &c. And a litle after he addeth: *Profecto vnus est ex omnibus*, &c. Certes of all others this is the onely man, by whom Africa, which for a thousand yeeres before had lien buried in the barbarous and grosse ignorance of our people, is now plainly discouered and laide open to the view of all beholders.

*Antonius Posseuinus de historicis*  
*sect. 7. cap. 2.*

*Sed & perdigna est lectu, &c.*

**A**lso the Historie of *Leo* Afer the Geographer is most worthy to be read, bicause it containeth an exact description of all the regions and people of Africa; and it hath bene published in Italian and French.

