

English Reprints.

EDWARD WEBBE,

Chief Master Gunner,

His Trauailes.

1590.

CAREFULLY EDITED BY

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LONDON :

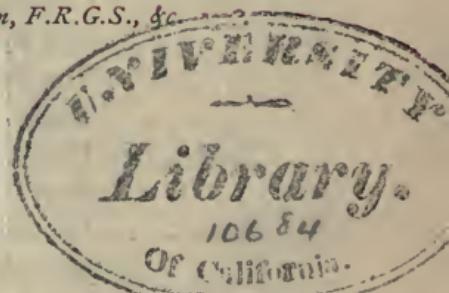
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CHRONICLE

of

some of the principal events
in the

LIFE, ADVENTURES, and TIMES

of

EDWARD WEBBE,

Master Gunner, sometime Chief Master Gunner of France.

* Probable or approximate dates.

WEBBE, apparently an unlettered man, goes confusedly backward and forward in his narration, so as to render any chronology of his life little better than guesswork. Some points can be fixed with certainty: from which it is clear, that when he gives years he speaks in round numbers; 13 meaning over 12 years: and the like.

1553. July 2. Mary succeeds to the crown.

*1554. Edward Webbe, born at St. Katherines, near the Tower of London. Is the son of Richard Webbe, Master Gunner of England, *p. 17.*

1558. Nov. 17. Elizabeth begins to reign.

1566-68. aet. 12-14. Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent Ambassador into Russia and vpon him I was daylie attendant There [at Moscow] I staide 3 yeeres attendant on my master," *pp. 17, 18.*

This statement fixes Webbe's birth in 1554. For prior to the burning of Moscow, Captain Anthony Jenkenson made but three voyages to Russia.

The first, 1557-60, included a visit to Bokhara; see *Hakluyt*, i. 310-338, Ed. 1599.

The second, 1561-64, included a visit to Persia: see *Hakluyt*, i. 338-352.

The third, 1566-68, is thus given in *Hakluyt*, i. 372.

"A very briefe remembrance of a voyage made by M. Anthony Jenkinson, from London to Moscouia, sent from the Queenes Maiestie to the Emperour, in the yeere 1566.

"The fourth day of May in the yeere aforesaid, I imbarke my selfe at *Grauesend*, in the good ship called the *Harry of London*, and hauing had a prosperous voyage arriued at the bay of S. *Nicholas* [in the White Sea] in *Russia* the 10 day of July following, and immedately I sent in post to the Emperour to aduertise of my comming and trauelling then thorowe the countrey, I with my company came to the *Mosco* where the Emperour kept his court, the 23. of August, and foorthwith gaue the Secretarie to vnderstand my arriuall, who aduertised the Emperours Maiestie, and the first day of September, being a solemne feast among the *Russes*, I came before the Emperours Maiestie, sitting in his seate of honour, and hauing kissed his hand, and done the Queenes Maiesties commendations, and deliuerner her Graces letters and present, he had me to dinner, which I accepted, and had much honour done vnto me both then and all the time of my abode in *Russia*."

CHRONICLE.

Goes again to Russia.

A slave in the Crimea.

A galley-slave in Turkey.

Captain Jenkinson appears to have remained in or about Moscow, until his return, which accounts for Webbe only alluding to the Russians, while with him.

1570. *Set. 16.* Webbe again goes out to Russia—this time to Narva, in the Gulf of Finland—in the English Russia fleet of 13 ships, under Captain William Burrough.

July 10. The fleet capture 5 ships of Danish rovers at Turtree island. For the official account of this fight, see Note 1. Webbe adds additional information as to the fate of the prisoners.

He appears to have remained through the winter at Moscow, for before the English fleet arrived next year,

1571. *May 24.* Moscow was burnt by the Crim-Tartars. For two ac-
Set. 17. counts of which see Note 2.

Webbe escapes the fire and the crush only to become a slave. Giles Fletcher, writing twenty years later on, tells us,—

“The chiefe bootie the Tartars seeke for in all their warres, is to get store of captiues, specially yong boys and girls, whom they sell to the *Turkes*, or other their neighbors. To this purpose, they take with them great baskets made like bakers panniers to carrie them tenderly, and if any of them happen to tyer, or to be sickle on the way, they dash him against the ground, or some tree and so leave him dead.” *Of the Rvse Commonwealth*, fol. 69.

Webbe, with seven other Englishmen, is taken to Kaffa in the Crimea.

After some time (Webbe states five years), they are ransomed for 300 crowns = £112:10:0 of then English money, each.

It was probably on this return home, through Russia, that Webbe lost his all in the wreck of the *Hart*, 12 miles from Narva.

1566, *May, 1.* Selim II. becomes Sultan of Turkey.

1571. *Oct. 7.* ‘The Sea-fight at Lepanto.’ Dohn John of Austria, at the head of 203 galleys, and 6 great Venetian galeasses, fights the Turkish fleet of 240 galleys and 60 smaller vessels: and gains an immense victory, sinking 94 ships and capturing 130 more. 30,000 Turks are slain, and 15,000 Christian galley-slaves released from slavery.

Webbe sails in the *Henry* of London for Leghorn, *p. 19.*

At Palermo, sees the Earl of Oxford give his challenge, *p. 32.*

Don John retakes the town of Tunis from the Turks. The Spaniards had held the citadel already. Webbe states he was there in the *Royal*, *p. 35.*

From Leghorn the *Henry* is sent to Alexandria; with a crew of 60 men, among whom, and apparently for the first time, Webbe is Master gunner, *p. 19.*

Returning from Alexandria, the *Henry* is, after a fight of 48 hours, captured by the Turks, *p. 19.* Webbe is made a galley-slave.

1574. *Dec. 21.* Amurath III. (Murad Khan) becomes Sultan.

1576. *May 11.* Thamasp I., Shah of Persia, dies.

A disputed succession leads to fierce contests and national disorder in Persia. Amurath determines to conquer it.

In Turkey.

1578.

1579.

*1580.

1582. June 1—July 22.

æt. 28. Nov. 14.

1583. Jan. 14.

Mar. 29.

1585. Oct. 29.

1588. æt. 34.

*Aug.

Aug. 3.

First campaign against Persia, from Erzeroum; under Mustapha Pasha (the conqueror of Cyprus). It is indecisive.

Mustapha Pasha has a second indecisive campaign. He is recalled, and arrives in Constantinople 9 May 1580. Sinan Pasha appointed in his stead.

Webbe, 'constrained for want of victuals,' discovers his skill in gunnery. Has to serve in the Persian war.

Amurath circumcises his eldest son Mahomet. Feasting for 52 days and nights. See *J. von Hammer*.

Webbe makes a wonderful piece of fireworks, pp. 28, 29.

'The tall shippe called the *Susan of London* [24 guns]: the Master whereof was *Richard Parsons*' leaves Blackwall, and

Embarks, at the Isle of Wight, Master *William Harborne* and suite; being the first English Ambassador to the Great Turk.

Mr. Harborne lands at Constantinople, and remains there 5 years.

The remainder of Webbe's travels while in slavery can only be put down as they are given to us.

Ali Pasha—a renegade Christian—with 60 gallies attempts his native town in Calabria.

From the Army in Persia, Webbe is taken by Damascus to Cairo.

At the Red sea, sees the *Grand Maria*.

Thence to Goa in the East Indies.

Thence by Bethlehem, Jerusalem, &c., again to Damascus

Thence to the land of Prester John [? Turkistan] 'withir 18 degrees [= 1080 miles] of the sun.'

Returns to Constantinople in time of famine, 'an English penny loaf of bread being worth a crown of gold.'

Is imprisoned in iron chains, grievously pinched with extreme penury at Constantinople, with 2000 other Christian slaves.

Webbe, on behalf of 500 Christians slaves, works through a 14 feet wall. Their attempt to escape is discovered, and they are punished, p. 28.

The Grand-Vizier, Osman Pasha dies.

'Soone after the death of the great Basha' Mr. Harborne ransoms about 20 English men, 'whereof' Webbe 'was one of the last.'

Journeying towards England, he came by land to Venice. Then singularly enough, goes southward through Italy.

At Padua, he is tried for a heretic.

At Ferrara, he is well entertained.

At Bologna, an Englishman, a Catholic Bishop, Doctor Poole, shows him great friendship.

At Florence, he meets another Englishman, Mr. John Stanley.

At Rome, he is 19 days in trouble with the Pope and Cardinal Allen, but they let him pass, giving him 25 crowns. The English College however make a fool of him and imprison him three days, from which he is delivered by another Englishman.

He is reviled with lying rumours as to the success of the Spanish Armada.

Mr. Harborne and suite leave Constantinople; return-

Chief Master Gunner, in chains, in Turkey.

Journeying towards England.

Journey to England.

In France.

1589. *Feb.

ing home viâ the Danube, Poland, and the Hanse towns.
Hakluyt, i. 400.

At Naples, Webbe is denounced by a Genoese as an English spy. Is 16 days in a dark dungeon: 'thrice had I ye strappado.' Is further imprisoned 7 months.

He petitions the Viceroy. The King appoints him one of his gunners, with 35 crowns a month.

Naturally he seizes the first opportunity of escape. Finally does get away in the *Grace* of London, Nicholas Nottingham, Master.

May 1. æt. 35. WEBBE ARRIVES IN ENGLAND, after 13 years absence.

May to Nov. Visits his friends.

Nov. Goes over into France. Henry IV. appoints him Chief Master Gunner in the field.

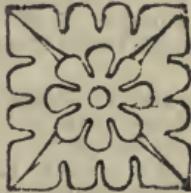
1590. Mar. 14.

Battle of Ivry. Henry IV. beats the League, p. 34.

Jealous French gunners poison Webbe. He is saved by 'Unicorn's horn'; and returns to England.

Takes lodgings in Blackwall, where he writes his narrative, finally on

May 19. He dedicates his book.



THE TRAVELS OF EDWARD WEBBE.

INTRODUCTION.



HE dread of the Great Turk pervading Christendom, in the days of Queen Elizabeth, is a thing hard of apprehension to the present generation of Englishmen.

Beyond the comparatively petty intestine quarrels of Christian princes, there seemed surely surging onwards the great wave of Mahomedan invasion. In numbers incalculable, in numbers apparently inexhaustible, the Turks had poured into Europe. Hardly a century had expired since they had blotted out the Eastern Roman Empire,—the venerable polity of eleven centuries, the bridge between ancient and modern history. Within that century, they had conquered Greece, Egypt, Rhodes, and Cyprus; had penetrated into Italy; and had carried devastation through Hungary, to the very walls of Vienna. Even now the southern nations of Europe were grappling with them, as in a death struggle. Crushing defeats, such as ‘The great sea-fight of Lepanto,’ and they were rare enough, seemed hardly to diminish the numbers or check the power of the Turks, or to procure for the Christians even a moment’s breathing time. Need we wonder, then, if

ofttimes men's hearts failed them, for fear, for dread, and for despair?

With the power of the Great Turk consider the might of the king of Spain. In addition to Spain, the Low Countries, Naples, and Sicily, Philip II. possessed colonies in the New World, in the aggregate as vast as Christendom itself. He was the most potent Christian king, drawing fabulous riches from the New World for the maintenance of large armies and fleets in the Old, which he employed as much in extinguishing the liberties of his subjects as in attempting to crush those who chose to win for themselves and their posterity, at the utmost hazard of their all, the precious essentials of existence: freedom of thought, of action, and of worship.

Contrasted with these two Empires, then at their zenith, the position of England, as an European state, was comparatively insignificant. To the Turks, the English were but a hardy variety of Christians, to whom—following their custom with regard to all the foreign nations with which they came in contact—they gave the designation, as an appropriate nickname, of 'The Clothiers.' To the Spaniards, they were execrable heretics, doomed to be conquered by them in this world, and to endless torment in the next.

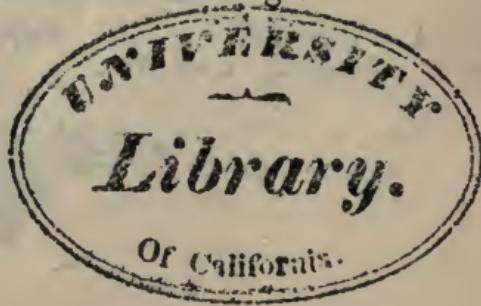
Nothing but utterly reckless daring, nothing but almost superhuman endurance and courage, nothing but a national character deeply imbued with the simplest reliance upon the Saviour of mankind, could save—did save our island home from the ultimate grasp of one or other of these mighty despotisms.

By the good providence of God, the scale has been turned. Victoria benignly rules an Eastern Empire

more populous than that of Amurath ; fosters colonies larger and richer—richer not only in gold ‘that perisheth,’ but in all the constituents of human happiness, all the elements of human progress—than ever possessed Philip II. ; and is enthroned in the hearts of a people more united and infinitely more powerful than were ever the subjects of her great predecessor, Elizabeth.

Though the following jottings from the memory—enfeebled by suffering—of ‘a simple man void of learning,’ are of but little historical value ; they give us a passing glimpse of the vast whirlwind of conflicting forces then raging over Southern Europe ; of some of the dangers that beset English commerce beyond the narrow seas ; and of that English pluck and endurance which won unto itself the power and renown which have come down to us from our forefathers.

Webbe is every inch an Englishman. In nothing more so than in the cheerful, modest, yet dauntless desire with which—after having through eighteen years of slavery experienced what could be inflicted upon him by the severity of the Tartars, by the harsher cruelty of the Turks, and by the still fiercer ferocity of the Christians—he concludes his narrative :—‘I shall be glad and do daylie desire that I may be employed in some such service as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntry.’ The epic of modern history is to be found in the Elizabethan age.



BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDWARD WEBBE HIS TRUAILES.

(a) Issues in the Narrator's life time.

I. As a separate publication.

1. [1590]. London. *Editio princeps*: see title on opposite page. It has no wood cuts. [Of this first edition the only other Copy as yet known is that purchased at Nassau's sale by Mr. Jadis, at whose sale again it was purchased for £14 14s. *Grenville Catalogue, British Museum.*]

2. [1590]. London. 1 vol. 4to. Printed by A. J. for VVilliam Barley, dwelling in Gratious streete neere leaden hall.

3. 1590. London. 1 vol. 4to.

A reprint of No. 1; with the addition of six woodcuts, one of which, repeated also as a frontispiece, represents Webbe as a young man walking.

Second edition. Newly enlarged and corrected by the Author. London. Printed for William Wright. 1590. With six woodcuts, five of which are those of No. 2: the portrait of Webbe, also repeated as a frontispiece, being altered to an older man firing a cannon.

The only important addition is the following in the 'Epistle to the Reader.'

'And whereas in the first edition of this booke a great fault in number did negligently escape in Folio 3 [see page 21.] in these wordes 30 thousand for 300 thousand: and 50 thousand for 500 thousand. that fault is truely amended in this Edition.' These alterations have been made in the present edition.

(b) Issue subsequent to the Narrator's death.

I. As a separate publication.

4. 1 May 1868. *English Reprints*: see title at page 1. London. 1 vol. 8vo.



THE

Rare and most vvonderful
thinges which Edward Webbe
an Englishman borne hath seene and passed
in his troublesome trauailes, in the Citties of Ieru-
salem, Dammasko, Bethelem and Gallely : and
in the Landes of Iewrie, Egipt, Gtecia,
Russia, and in the Land of Prester Iohn.

Wherein is set foorth his extreame flauerie sust-
ained many yeres togither, in the Gallies and wars
of the great Turk against the Landes of Persia,
Tartaria, Spaine, and Portugall, with the
manner of his releasement, and comming
into Englande in May last.

LONDON,

Printed by Ralph Blower, for Thomas Pauier, &
are to be folde at his shop in Corn-hill, at the signe of the Cat and
Parrats, ouer against Popeshead alley, nere the Royal Exchange.



¶ The Epistle to the Reader.

 Vrteous Reader, I haue undertaken in this short discourse, to vtter vnto thee ye most part of such things as I saw and passed in the time of my troublesome trauell and flauish life susteyned in the Gallies, and wars of the great Turke.

And this I do protest, that in this booke there is nothing mentioned or expressed, but that which is of truth: and what mine own Eies haue perfectly seene. Some foolish persons perhaps will cavel and say, that thiese are but Lies and fables: and that it conteyneth nothing else: but to those I aunswere, that whatsoeuer is herein mentioned, he whosoeuer he be, that shall soe finde faulte, and doubt of the trueth hereof, let him but make inquirie of the best and greatest trauellers and Merchants about all this land: and they doubtles will resolute them that it is true which is here expressed: with a great deale more, which now I cannot call to remembrance, for that my memory faileth me, by meanes of my great and greeuous troubles. From my lodging at Black-wall, this nineteenth of May. 1590.

Your Loving cuntryman,

EDWARD WEBBE.



TO THE MOST MIGHTY, MY GRATIOVS
AND RENOWNED SOVERAIGNE, ELIZA-
BETH by the grace of God Queene of England,
Fraunce and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

YOVR HIGHNESSE MOST HVMBLE SVBIECT,
Edward VVeb, hartely prayeth for the continuance
of your Maiesties health and prosperous raigne to
the worldes ende.



Onsidering (most Gracious and dread Sou-
raigne) the wonderful prouidence of Al-
mighty god shewed towardes your High-
nesse since the time of your most happie
and prosperous raigne, a swell in the pre-
seruation of your Maiesties person from the handes of
your highnesse enemies, as also, in defending this small
Angle or Realme of Englande from the force of for-
raine foes: and the continuall blesings of peace and
plentie, with which euer since, he hath in bountifull
fort maintained it: I coulde not therefore but (ac-
cording to mydutie) tenderhumble thankes to almighty
god for the same when to my great comfort, euen in
the midst of my thraldome in Turkie, I did heare it
most truely reported by a Christiane Captiue, and
your Highnesse Clemencie, by him highlly commended.
The Report of whose fame truly discribed, a swell in
the administration of iustice, and supporting of Christian
religion, as also in relieuing and succouring the poore

distressed members of this lande, gaue me iust cause to pray hartely for my deliuerie, and to long inwardly, vntill I came to see your highnesse (my dread Soueraigne) and this my Native Cuntry: and now hauing obteyned my long expected wish. I doe in all humblenesse prostrate my selfe, and this plaine discourse of my trauels to your most excellent Maiestie: wherein may be feene, that if in Turkie I would haue denied my Christ, or in my trauel I woulde haue forsaken my Prince to haue serued for Spaine, thereby to haue become a traytour to your Majestie and my native Cuntry, I needed not to haue liued in want, but in great prosperitie: but for as much as almighty God hath now set me free from thralldome, and deliuered me from many daungers, and sent me into Englannde, my desire is that I may be imployed in such seruice and affaires, as may be pleasing to God, and found profitable to my prince and cuntry. And thus trusting your Highnesse will accept in good worth this true discourse (though rudely penned) I most humbly take my leaue, most hartely praying to the almighty god, for the prosperous health and continuall Raigne of your most excellent Maiestie

Your HighnesSES humble subiect,

Ed. Web.





¶ Veres Written vpon the Alphabet of
the Queenes Maiesties name.

E ternall God, who guideth still your grace,
L engthen your life, in health and happie days.
I nspire your subiects heartes in euery place :
Z ealous in Loue, and free from secret hate,
A nd shorten life in those that breedē debate.
B eholde her Lorde, who is our strength and stay
E uen he it is, by whom we holde our owne :
T urne not thy face from her in any way,
H ew downe her foes, and let them all be knowne.

R Enowned Queene, your highnesse subiects joy,
E uen for to séé the fall of all your foes :
G od of his mercy shielde you from annoy
I ntending treasons, still for to disclose :
N one of vs all, but wil most duely pray,
A lmighty God preferue you night and day.

FINIS.





Ed. Webbe his trauailes.

EDWARD WEB an englishman, borne at S. Katherins, neere ye Tower of London, was the sonne of one Richard Web master gunner of England: my father hauing some natural affection to me, when I was but xij yeares olde, did prefer me to the seruice of Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent Ambasador into Russia, with whom I went by Sea, and vpon him I was daylie attendant: in which my iourney, I was conuersant among ye people of that Cuntrey, which were apparelled like the Turkes and Tartarians, with furde Caps and long garments down to their shins: much like to Carbines or Horse-men readie to ye warre.

There I made my abode some space in the head Cittie of Russia called Musko, in which their building is all of Firre, except the Emperors Court, which is of lime and stone. They execute very sharpe lawes among themselues, and are a kinde of Tyranous People as appeareth by their customs, of which, among many other, these I specially noted: (*viz.*) that if any man be indebted one to another and doth not make painment at his day and time appointed: the officers may enter vpon the debtors, and forceably breake down their houses, and imprifon them in grieuous fort where iudgment shal presently passe against him, which is with a mallet of wood he shall haue so many blowes on the shinnes or on the fore-heade, as the Judge shall awarde: and this punishment shall be inflicted sundry daies upon him. The Turks do also vse to beate Debtors with a Mallet, but not in that fort, for in Turkie they are beaten for debt vpon the soles of their feet with a Cane, or else a Cudgell, if

that painment be not made by a day. I also noted that if any Nobleman do offend ye Emperor of Russia, the saide Nobleman is taken and imprisonned with al his Children and kinssfolkes, and the first great frost that commeth, (for the Cuntry is wonderfully cold and subiect to much frost) there is a great hole made in the Ife ouer some great Riuers, and then the partie principal is put in, and after him his wife, his Children, and all other his kins-folkes ; and so leaue none of his posteritie to posseſſe his Lands or goodes, but the same are bestowed vpon others, at the Emperors pleasure.

There I staide 3 yeeres attendant on my maister, in which time the Crime-Tartarians [otherwise named the new Christians] made warre vpon the said Cittie of *Musko*,² which soone after was betrayed, and speadely burned, the People in great abundance massacred, and the Tartarian Souldiers had wonderfull greate and rich spoyles, in the same : there was I at that time with vij. other Englishmen taken prisoners and for flaues were conueied to *Caffa*, where the king of the Tartarians abideth and keepeth a statly Court : being conueyed thither, we were set to wipe the feet of the kings horses, and to become ordinarie flaues in the said Court, to fetch water, cleave wood, and to do such other drudgery. There were we beaten three times a weeke with a horse tayle : and thus in this fort and miserable seruitude wee stayed there ffeue yeeres, then were we ransomed from thence by our friendes, where we paide euery man 300. crownes, which is vij. s. vj d. a peece of English money. Among that people called ye Tartarians, I noted especially this one thing, that their Children being new borne, do neuer open their eyes vntill they be ix. dayes and ix nights olde. Thus being ransomed as is aforesaid, I returned home into England, where hauing staied some smal time, I went againe into Russia in the hart of master Kings of Ratcliffe with thirty saile of ships more in our Company, at

which time her Maiesties shippe called the Wiloughby was our Admirall, and the Harry appertayning to the company of the Marchants, was our Vice-admirall, Maister William Burrow then being our Captaine and maister: in which our voyage we met with v. Rovers or men of war,¹ whom we set vpon, and burnt their Admirall, and brought those ships into Narr, and there the men ware massacred in this manner by the Russians: first great stakes drien into the grounde, and they spitted vpon Powles, as a man woulde put a Pig vpon a Spitte, and so vij. score were handled in that manner in very Tyranous fort. We vnladed our bourthen at *Narre*, and tooke in our lading for our commodities, but the ship wherein I was (which is called the Hart) hauing sayled but xij. miles from thence, stroke vpon a Rocke, whereby the ship and goodes were lost, the residue of the fleet had no harme, and all the men sauied their liues by taking themselues into the Boat of the same ship.

By meanes of which ship so cast away, I lost all that I had, and then came againe into England, and gathered a new stocke, and in the Henrie of London I went to *Levanra* alias *Legorne*. This ship called the Henrie had bin folde before to Doctor Hector, and other Italian Marchants, which was vnowne vnto vs, so that at our comming to *Legorne* the ship was seized on by the factors of those that were the owners thereof, and by them laden with merchantdize to *Alexandria*, in which voyage my selfe was Master gunner.

But heere fortune began to lowre on me againe, and turne her wheele in such fort against me, as I that was foone after brought to liue in greater flauerie than euer I did before, for we hauing saflie arived at *Alexandria*, dischardged our burthen: and fraughted our ship with great store of that Cuntry commodities, and returning back to *Legorne*, fuddainly in the way, we met with Fiftie faile of the Turkes Gallies: with which Gallies, we fought two dayes and two nights, and made great slaughter amongst their men, we being in all but three score men very

weake for such a multytude, and hauing lost 50. of 60. men, faintnes constrainyd vs for to yeeld vnto them, by reason we wanted Winde to help our felus withall, and the Calme was so great a helpe vnto them, as there was no way for vs to escape. Thus did the Turkes take the ship and goodes, and in the same found x of vs liuing whom they tooke Prisoners and presently stripped vs naked, and gaue vs 100 blowes a peece for presuming to fight against them.

Then were we sent to *Constantinople*, and then committed to the Gallies, where we continued the space of vj yeeres: the manner of our vse, there, was thus.

First we were shauen head and face, and then a shirt of Cotten and Breeches of the same put vpon vs, and our Legs and Feete left naked, and by one of the feet is each flauie chayned with a great chaine to the Gallie, and our handes fastned with a payre of manacles. The foode which I and others did eat, was very blacke, far worse then Horse-bread, and our drinke was stinking water, (vnlesse it be when we come to the places where we tooke in fresh water] at which time we supposed our diet to be very daintie.

Thus as I saide before, I remained vj. yeeres in this miserable state, wonderfully beaten and misvsed euery day: there haue I seene some of my fellowes when they haue bin so weake as they could not row by reason of sicknes and faintnes, where ye Turkes woulde lay vpon them as vpon Horses, and beat them in such fort, as oft times they dyed, and then threw them into the Sea.

Thus seeing my selfe still to continue in this miserable state, I was constrained for want of victualles, to discouer my selfe and to shew them that I had good skill in Gunners art, which I thought would haue bin greatly wel esteemed at the Turkes handes: but then for the same, I was more narrowly looked vnto, yet somewhat better esteemed of, then I was before. Not long after, the Turke made warres against the Persians, and gathered vij. hundred thousand men togither, and these were conducted by his chief Baffaes into Persia:

At which time (for that I had skil in Artillery) I was chosen foorth of the Gallies, to go with the Armie into the lande of Persia, and there to do the Turke seruice in the fielde, with whom I trauailed on foote, but in our going thither, their dyed of our Armie, by meanes of great ficknes, diet, and want of Victuals, about the number of 300. thousand so that when wee came into persia. we were foure [hundred] thousand strong in the fielde, there wee rested vs one moneth, by which time, we (hauing hartened our selves) gaue a fierce assault against the Persians, where the Turks side got the worst, and lost 60 thousand men. Then the generall ouer the Turkes Armie, whose name was Sannon Basha, sent vs so many souldiers more as made vs 500 thousand strong, there we staide for a long time, making warres against the Persians, and the greate Cittie of Damasco, where the Turke little preuayled : for if that the Turke were as pollitick as he is strong of power, the Persians were not able to resist him.

Thus leauing the Turkes Armie in Persia, we came through Damasco to our Cittie called the great *Caer*. which Cittie is three score miles in compasse, and is the greatest Cittie in the world, it standeth vpon the riuier of Nilo, and in the said Cittie, there is 12 thousand Churches, which they tearme Muscots.

This Cittie at all times keepeth xl. thousand men continually in Souldiers pay, and are ready at one houres warning to serue under the Turke : there we staide to see the cutting or parting of the Riuier of Nilo, which is done once euery yeere, vpon the 25 of August. This Cittie standeth in the land of Egipt, and is vnder the gouernment of the great Turke. And there is a king ouer the faide Cittie, who is called the king of the great Caer, and ye Wize Roy or Liefenant to the great Turke, and he is then present at the cutting or parting of this river of Nilo : at which time there is a great triumph, and euery Towne and Cuntry round about to the value of a thousand mile, send guifts and presents to the king of the great Caer, in consideration

of the water which commeth to them from that Riuier of Nilo by meanes of the cutting of it, which is but once euery yeere.

It is therefore to be vnderstood, that in ye Land of Egipt it rayneth not at all, and all the grounde throughout the lande of Egipt is continually watred by the water which vpon ye 25 day of August is turned into the countries round about, by means of ye wonderfull growing and fwelling of the water vpright without any stay at all, on the one side thereof, it is to ye height of a huge mountaine, which beginneth to increase the 15. day of August, and by the 25. of the same moneth it is at the highest, on which day it is cut by ye deuiding of 2 pillars in a straunge fort, neere to the cittie of ye great *Caer*. and so turned as off from a great mountaine into the lande of Egipt: by meanes whereof, the Turke holdes all the land of Egipt in subiection to him selfe, and might if he would dismisse them cleane from hauing any water at all.

From thence I went with the Turkes power, and vnder his conduction to the lande of Iewry, and from thence to the city of Ierusalem, where part of the olde Temple is yet standing, and many Monuments of great antiquitie, as herein after shall be shewed.

In the Land of *Siria*, there is a riuier that no Iew can catch any fish in it at all, and yet in the same riuier there is great store of fish like vnto Samon trouts: But let a Christian or a Turke come thither and fish for them, and eyther of them shall catch them in great abundance, if they do but put their hande into the water with a little bread, and an hundred will be about his hand.

Thus hauing seene a number of rare and most wonderful things, we went to the city of *Agowa*, which is ye head and chief city in all ye East Indies, there wee gaue Battell against ye Christians yat keep ye said city, which are Portugals, for that ye Town appertaineth to ye king of Portugal. In this place wee gaue Battle and lost xx thousand of ye Turksmen, and yet

could not obtain it: Neuertheles ye great Turks Lief-tenant or Generall with his power toke a place called *Armous*, where they had great store of Treasure and Sowes of Silver.

Thus being chiefe maister Gunner in these Turkish warres, I was sent for againe by commandement of ye Turk to Dafmasco, where I staied all that winter with xx M. men. And from thence made prouision to make wars against the land of Prester Iohn, who is by profession a Christian. In this land of Prester Iohn, when it doth raine, it continueth at the least one whole moneth. And in ye graund Caer, there is a plague once in euery vij yeeres, which commeth with such a fiercenes, that the most part of all the people there do die of the said plague: and people in great numbers lose their Eie fight with the vapours and great heat which commeth from the ground.

I remember one battaile, which ye Admirall of the great Turke named Ally Basha made with three-score Gallies, and seazed vpon a towne where the said Ally Basha was borne himselfe, named Trybusas, which is in ye confines of Calabria and vnder ye gouernment of the king of Spaine, at which towne he landed his Armie an houre before day, thinking to haue taken it by treason: and there vpon in great fury scaled the wals with lathers: but the watch beuraied vs, and on a sodaine, cried Arme, Arme, which was foone done: for euery man tooke him to his tooles and weapons of defence.

But it is worthy of memorie, to see how the women of ye towne did plie themselues with their weapons, making a great maffacre vpon our men, and murthered 500 of them in such speedie and furious sort as is wonderfull: we needed not to haue feared their men at all, had not ye women bin our great ouerthrow, at which time I my selfe was maister Gunner of the Admirals Gally, yet chainde greeuously, and beaten naked with a Turkish sword flatling, for not shooting where they would haue me, and where I could not shooft. It is

but a few yeares since, that in the cittie of Constantinople, there happned a great plague, where there dyed in six monethes space, feuen hundred thousand persons, at which time master Harbarn Ambassadour for the Turkie company was there, and lost sundry of his seruants.

From Damasco we went into the land of prester John who is a Christian, and is called *Christien de Sentour*: that is, the Christian of the Gerdell:³ against this prester Iohn I went with the Turks power, and was then their maister Gunner in the field, ye number of Turkish Souldiers sent thither, was ffeue hundred M. men who went thither by land, and pitched themselues in battaile rayat Saran, neere to the place wher the son of prester Iohn keepeth his Court. There Prester Iohn with his power, ffeue of ye Turks the number of 60. thousand. onely by policie of drawe Bridges to let foorth water, made as secrete fleshes for that purpose, in which water so many Turks perished. The next day following, the Turkes power did incompaſſe Preſter Iohns sonne and tooke him prisoner, and ſent him for a preſent to ye great Turks Court then being at Constantinople, but ſoone after, preſter Iohn himſelue made an agreement betweene the greate Turke and his ſonne, that the one ſhoulde not demaund tribute of the other, and ſo his ſonne was released and ſent home againe.

This Preſter Iohn of whom I ſpake before, is a King of great power, and keepeth a very bountiſh Court, after the manner of that Cuntry, and hath euery day to ſerue him at his Table, ſixty kinges, wearing leaden Crownes on their heads, and thoſe ſerue in the meat vnto Preſter Iohns Table: and con tinually the firſt dish of meat ſet vpon his Table, is a dead mans ſcull cleane picked and laide in black Earth: putting him in minde that he is but Earth, and that he muſt die, and ſhal become Earth againe.

These 60 Kings are all his Wize Royes in ſeuerall places, and they haue their Deputies to fyſſe their Roomes, and thoſe kings liue con tinually in Preſter

Iohns Courte, and go no furder then they may be still attendant vpon him, without leaue of their Emperour Prester Iohn.

In the Court of Prester Iohn, there is a wilde man, and an other in the high street at Constantinople, whose allowance is euery day a quarter of Raw Mutton: and when any man dyeth for some notorious offence, then are they allowed euery day a quarter of mans flesh.

These wilde men are chained fast to a post euery day, the one in Prester Iohns Court, and the other in the high street of Constantinople, each of them hauing a Mantel cast about their shoulders, and all ouer their bodies they haue wonderfull long haire, they are Chained fast by the neck, and will speedily deuoure any man that commeth in their reach.

There is also a Beast in the Court of Prester Iohn, called Arians, hauing 4 heades, they are in shape like a wilde Cat, and are of the height of a great mastie Dog.

In this Court likewise, there is Fowles caled Pharses foules whose feathers are very beautifull to be worne, these fowles are as big as a Turkie, their flesh is very sweet, and their feathers of all manner of Colours.

There is Swannes in that place, which are as lardge againe as the Swannes of Englande are, and their Feathers are as blew as any blew cloath.

I haue seen in a place like a Park adioyning vnto prester Iohns Court, three score and feuen-teene, Vnicornes and Eliphants all alive at one time, and they were so tame that I haue played with them as one would play with young Lambes.

When Prester Iohn is serued at his table, there is no salt at all set one in any salt sellar as in other places, but a loafe of Bread is cut crosse, and then two kniues are layde acrosse vpon the loafe, and some salt put vpon the blades of the kniues and no more.

Being thus in the land of prester Iohn, I trauelled within Eightene degrees of ye Sun, euery degree being in distance three score miles.

I was at the Red Sea, at the place where *Moyfes* made passage with his wande for the Children of Ifraell, where I saw a Ship called the *graund Maria*, she drawes but xj foot water, and against this ship lx Gallies and ships haue fought at one time, and cannot conquer her: and this is vnder the gouernment of ye great Turke.

I haue beene in the Courts of the three great Patriarkes, the first whereof is kept at Ierusalem, the second at the Gran Caer, and the third at Constantinople: these haue their Courts in very stately fort, and attended on by none but Priests.

When I was at Ierusalem, I saw the Sepulchre wherein (it is faide) Christ was buried: it is as it were in a Vault, and hath viij Dores, and viij Roes of Marble steppes or stayres to go downe into the same, and then at the bottom of ye stayres, there is a fairep Chapel, with an Altar and a Lamp burning continually day and night before it, and the Graue is full of white Earth, as white as Chalke, and a Toombe of ye same Earth madē, and laide vpon Stone, wheron are fundry Letters written, but I could not read them.

The great Turk hath some profit comming by ye keeping thereof, and hath therefore builded at his owne charges an Hosptial within Ierusalem, which his Genezaries doe keepe: and this Hospitall is to receiue all Pilgrims and trauellers to lodge in whensoeuer they come. And all that come to see the sepulchre doe pay ten Crownes a-peece, whereof the Turke hath but one, and the rest goes to the Church, and so they may stay there as long as they list to lodge in that new Hospitall, and haue lodging, bread, victuals and water so long as they will remaine there, but no wine: such as come thither for Pilgrims haue no beds at all, but lie vpon the ground on Turkey Carpets, and before the sepulcher of Christ there is masse said euerie day, and none may say the masse there, but a man that is a pure virgin: there was one that dyed while I was there, that daily

said and fung masse before the sepulcher, and he was an hundred and thirtie yeares of age before his death, and now another is in his Roome, but whether ye old man that dead is, or this which is now in the place to sing and say the said Masse, were pure Virgins I know not, but sure I dare not sweare for them, because they bee men, and flesh and bloud as other are.

After that I had thus long trauelled and spent my time in the warres and affaires of the great Turke, I was returned againe to Constantinople, where at my ariuall, a pennie loafe of Breade (of English starling money) was worth a crowne of gold: such was the scarfitie, Sicknes, Misery and Dearth then vpon ye said Cittie, and happie was he that so could get Breade to eate. Neuerthelesse, because I was a Christian, and for that ye Turke had no cause presently to vse me in my office of gunnership, I was there imprisoned, where I found two thousand Christians pind vp in ston wals lockt fast in yron chaines, grieuously pinched, with extreme penury, and such as wished death rather then in soch misery to liue: amongst these was I placed, and tooke part with them accordingly: greeuing at my hard hap that the warres had not ended me before I came thether.

Thus I remained there with the rest, garded and daily watched, that we could stir no manner of way, there wee were suffered to worke vpon any manner of trade or occupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we did or made, we sold to the Turkes, and they gaue vs money for the same: and thus were we suffered to worke vntill it were time to goe and gather Snowe, which is there vsed yearly of Custome to be gathered: for the Turke hath great summes of mony paide him for ye said snow, which is gathered and folde to his subiects for a peny the pound, which pound, is two pound and a halfe English: and this snow they use only to coole their drinke in the summer season. And no man may sell any snowe vntill the Turke hath folde all his.

Thus liuing in this flauish life as is aforesaid, diuers of vs complotted and hammered into our heads how we might procure our releasement: wherevpon I attempted with the consent of 5 hundredth Christians, fellow flaues with my selfe, to breake a wall of fourteene foote broad, made of earth, lyme, and sand, which we greatly moistened with strong Vinegar, so that the wall being made moist therewith through the help of a spike of yron, ffe hundred of us had almost escaped out of prison: but looke what shall be, shal be, and what God will haue, shal come to passe and no more, as appeareth by vs, for we hauing made meanes for our speedie flight, as we were issuing foorth, we were bewrayed by ye barking of a dog, which caused the Turkes to arise, and they taking vs with the maner stopped vs from flying away, and gaue vs in recompence of our paines taking herein, seauen hundred blowes a peece vpon the naked skinne, *viz.* three hundred on the belly, and foure hundred on ye back.

Thus lying still Prisoner in the Turkes dungeons, it pleased God to send thether for the releasement of me and others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maister Harborne, Ambassadour thether for the company of Marchants, who to the great honour of England did behaue himselfe wonderfull wisely, and was a speciall meanes for the releasement of me and fundrie other English captiues, who were set at libertie soone after the death of the great Basha: thus by the meanes of the said Maister Harborne I was set free from Thralldome, and by him sent into England where I arriued on the first of May. 1589.

Whilst I was remaining prisoner in Turkey, and kept in such flauish manner as is Rehearsed the great Turke had his sonne circumcised, at which time there was great tryumphes and free liberty proclaimed for a hundred daies space, that any Nobleman, gentleman, traueler, Christian or other, might freely (without being molested) come and see the tryumphes theravesed, which were woonderful: I my selfe was there constrained to

make a cunning peece of fire work framed in form like to ye Arke of Noy, beeing 24 yardes high, and eight yardes broad, wherein was placed 40 men drawen on 6 wheeles, yet no man seene, but seemed to goe alone, as though it were onely drawen by two Fiery Dragons, in which shew or Arke there was thirteene thousand feuerall peeces of fire worke

At the same time that I was Released, there were set at liberty about xx English men, whereof I was one of the last: some of them are at this present in England. My selfe and others were released by meanes of her Maiesties fauorable Letters, sent to ye great Turke, brought by the foresayd Maister Harborne: some by the Raunsome money gathered at sundry times by the Marchants in the Cittie of London, for ye Godly purpose: of which, some of their names that were released were these. Hamand Pan, Iohn Beer, Iohn Band, Andrew Pullins, Edward Buggins and others.

Here may the bountiful Citizens of London see (as in a glasse) the fruits of their liberalitie and charitable deuotion giuen at feuerall times in the yeare towards the releasement of poore captiues, such as are constrained to abide most vilde and grieuous tortures, especially the torture and torment of consciens which troubled me and all true Christians to ye very soule: for the Turk by al meanes possible would stll perswade me and other my fellow Christians while I was there the time of 13 yeares, to forfaze Christ to deny him, and to beleue in their God Mahomet; which if I would haue done, I might haue had wonderfull preferment of the Turke, and haue liued in as great felicitie as any Lord in that countrey: but I vtterly denied their request, though by them greeuoufly beaten naked for my labour, and reviled in most detestable forte, calling me dogge, diuell, helhound, and such like names: but I giue God thankes he gaue me strength to abide with patience these crosses.

And though I were but a simple man voide of learning, yet stil I had in remembraunce that Christ

dyed for me, as appeareth by the holy Scriptures, and that Christ therein saith: *He that denyeth me before men I will deny him before my father which is in heauen: and againe he saith Who soeuer belieueth on me shall be saued, and haue life euerlasting.* This comfort made me resolute, that I would rather suffer all the torments of death in the worlde, then to deny my Sauiour and Redeemer Christ Iesus.

After my free libertie granted in Turkey, I intending my iourney towardes England, came by land to Venice, where I met at Padua thirtie Englishmen students, I met also with an Englishman, who liued in the state of a Frier, he brought me before the high Bishop, where I was accused for an hereticke, and he brought me in two fals witnessses to be sworn against me (hauing before known me in Turkey) neuerthelesse I disproued his witnessses, and they were found forsworne men, then was I set at libertie, and constrained to giue 15 Crownes towardes the finishing our Ladies shrine at Padua: and my accuser and his witnessses punished.

From thence I came to ye Duke of Ferrara, where I was wel entertained and liberally rewarded with a horse and fife and twentie Crownes for the sake of the Queenes Maiestie of England.

From thence with my Pasport, I came to Bolony in Italy, where I met with a popish Bishop being an Englishman which shewed me great friendship, he is called Doctor Poole: from thence to Florence, there I met with an English gentleman named maister Iohn Stanley. And from thence I went to Rome, there I was nineteene daies in trouble with the Pope, and the English Cardinall Doctor Allen, a notable Arch-papist, where I was often examined, but finding nothing by me, they let me passe, and vnderstanding that I had bene a captiue long time in Turkey, gaue me xxv. crownes. And before I went out of Rome, I was againe taken by ye English Colledge, and put there into the holy house 3 daies, with a fooles coate

on my backe, halfe blew, half yellowe, and a cockefcombe with three bels on my head, from whence I was holpen by meanes of an Englishman whom I found there, and presented my petition and cause to the Pope: who againe set me at libertie. From thence I departed to Naples, where I met with a Genowis, who apprehended me and brought me there before ye vice-Roy, saying I was a man of great knowledge and an English spie.

Then I was committed to a darke Dungeon xvij daies, which time they secretly made enquiry where I had liue before, what my wordes and behauour had beene while I was there, but they coulde finde nothing by me.

Thrice had I ye strappado, hoisted vp backward with my hands bound behinde me, which strooke all the ioynts in my armes out of joyst, and then constrained to drinke salte water and quicklime, and then fine Lawne or Callico thrust downe my throate and pluckt vp againe ready to pluck my hart out of my belly, al to make me to confesse that I was an English spie. After this, there were four bard horses prepared to quarter me, and I was still threatened to die except I would confesse some thing to my harme.

Thus seauen moneths I endured in this miserie, and yet they coulde finde no cause against me, then I wrote to the Vice-Roy to do me iustice, and he did write to ye K[ing] of Spain to know what should be done with me: whereupon the king of Spaine wrote that I should be employed in a Gunners roome: then was I entertained, and had 35 crownes a moneth, and had ye Kinges pattent sealed for the same, and then vnderstanding that three ships were comming towardes England I departed and fled from thence with them to my natvie Cuntry, in ye Grace of London by the helpe of one Nicholas Nottingham maister thereof. Thus came I into England with great joy and hearts delight, both to my selfe and all my acquaintance.

The report in Roome, Naples, and all ouer Italy, in my trauell which was at such time as the Spaniards came to inuade England, after I had beene released of my imprisonment, as I passed through the streetes, the people of that parts asked me how I durst acknowledge my selfe to be an Englishman, and therevpon to daunt me, did say, that England was taken by the Spaniards, and the Queene of England (whome God long preferue) was taken prisoner, and was comming towards Rome to doe pennisance: and that her highnes was brought thither, through desarts, moist, hilly and foule places: and where plaine ground was, holes and hollow trenches were digged in the way of her Majesties passage, to ye intent that she might haue gone vp to the mid leg in oes or mire: with these speeches they did check me, and I said, yat I trusted God doubtles would defend my Prince better, then to deliuer her into the hands of her enemies, wherefore they did greatly reuile me.

Many things I haue omitted to speake of, which I haue seen and noted in the time of my troublesome trauel. One thing did greatly comfort me which I saw long since in Sicilia, in the citie of Palermo, a thing worthy of memorie, where the right honorable the Earle of Oxenford a famous man for Chiualrie at what time he trauelled into forraine Countries, being then personally present, made there a challeng against al manner of persons whatsoeuer, and at all maner of weapons, as Turniments, Barriors with horse and armour, to fight a combat with any whatsoeuer. In the defence of his Prince and countrey: for which he was verie highly commended, and yet no man durst be so hardy to encounter with him, so that all Italy ouer, he is acknowledged the onely Chiuallier and Noble man of England. This title they giue vnto him as worthily deserued.

Moreouer, in the land of Egipt neere to the Riuers of Nilo, within sixe miles of the Gran Caer. There are feauen Mountaines builded on the out side, like

vnto ye point of a Diamond, which Mountaines were builded in King *Pharoes* time for to keepe Corne in, and they are Mountaines of great strength.

It is also saide, that they were builded about that time when *Ioseph* did lade home his Brethrens Asses with Corne, in the time of the great dearth mentioned in the Scripture: At which time, all their Corne lay in those mountaines.

In the Riuers of Nilo, there is long Fishes that are of tenne or twelue foote long, which swimmeth neere the shore, they are called the fishes of King *Pharao*, they are like vnto a Dolphin

These Fishes are so subtile, that swimming neere the shore side, they will pull men or women fodeinly into the Riuers and deuoure them.

In the Citie of the gran Caer, the houses are of a very olde building, all of Lime and stone, and in most of the houses the roofes are couered with fine gold, in a very workemanly sort.

In Egipt there is small store of water, because it neuer raineth in that Country, so that their water is very dangerous to drinke. They haue no springs at all in that country, and yet there falleth such a dew euery night, as doth refresh and keeps their hearbes and plantes in due sort, and makes them spring very fruitfully

The Citie of Damasco is very fruitfull and greatly replenished with al manner of fruities whatsoeuer, as *Pombgranades*, *Orenges*, *Limons*, *Apples*, *Peares*, *Plumbes*, *Grapes*, and all other like fruities.

The Turkes are a people yat at some time they will attempt to doe wonderfull things as going vpon Ropes, and thrusting their swords in their naked flesh, and stricke their sworde in their flesh like vnto a Scabbard: and many other things of great daunger.

In Turkie no man may strike the graunde Cady, that is their chiefest Iudg, if any man do strike him, immediatly he loseth his Right Arme for his offence, without Redemption.

At my comming ouer into Englande from Rome, I was faine to steal away, beeing then in yeerely fee to the King of Spaine, to be one of his chiefest Gunners.

And if the Ship where in I came ouer, had bin taken, both they and I my selfe had dyed for that offence.

The old Cittie of Ierusalem is a very delicat place, and nothing there to be seene but a little of the old walles which is yet Remayning: and all the rest is Graffe, Mofse and weedes much like to a peece of Rank or moist grounde. They haue no Tillage at all in that partes.

The Cittie of *Ierusalem* where the Temple now standeth is almost a mile from the olde walles of Ierusalem: it is of a maruellous olde building, and there standeth the old Relicks preserued and kept as Monuments of great treasure.

Now to Returne where I left off, and declare vnto you in what sort I imploide my selfe since my first entring into englande: heere I visited my friendes from May till November, and then I departed into Fraunce, where I had good entertainment at the Hands of the Renowned King and Captaine of this age, Henry of Burbon, King of Fraunce and Navarre, who Receiued me into Pay, and appointed me for his chiefe M[aister] Gunner in the field.

So that vpon Ash-wednsday last, at his most Renowned Battle fought vpon the plaine of Saint Andrew neere vnto *Drevx*: I was in seruice vnder him, where I gaue 3 charges vpon the Enemie, and they in steede thereof, gaue vs fifteene shot, and yet God be thanked peruailed not against vs.

There were wee constrained to make Bulwarkes of the dead bodies of our Enemies and of the Carcasses of dead Horses: where for my paines taking that day, the king greatlye commended me, and honorably Rewarded me.

But shortly after my first arivall in Fraunce, I was hated by some lewde Gunners who envying that I

should haue the Title to be Master Gunner in Fraunce, practised against me, and gaue me poyson in drinke that night: which thing when the King vnderstoode, he gaue order to the gouernor of Deepe, that his Phisition should presently see vnto me, who gaue me speadely Unicorns horne to drinke, and there by God and the Kings great goodnesse, I was againe restored to my former health.

Thus haue you hearde the manner of my cruell and most grieuous trauaile, my miserie, slaverie, and crueltie which I haue suffred therein, the manner of some olde Ornamentes and the customes of such as dwell in forraine nations far off, and in places where our Saviour and his Apostles were resident, and preached vpon the Earth: my seruice done vnder ye great Turke, of *Persia*, *Tartarica*, *Grecia*, and other places of seruice, I haue omitted therein my seruice done at the taking of Tunnis, and what I did in the Royle vnder Duke Iohn of Austria: and many other thinges which I coulde heere discouer vnto you: onely let this suffise, that I shall be glad, and do daylie desire that I may be employed in some such seruice as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntry.

FENES.



1. CAPTURE OF DANISH FREEBOOTERS, BY THE ENGLISH RUSSIA FLEET, 10 JULY 1570.—In a letter to the Emperor of Russia, dated Narue, 15 July 1570, by Christopher Hodsdon and Captain William Burrough, there is a full description of the capture of these Danish pirates.

Most mightie Emperour, &c. Whereas Sir *William Garrard* and his fellowship the company of English merchants, this last Winter sent hither to the *Narue* three ships laden with merchandise, which was left here, and with it *Christopher Hodsdon* one of the sayd fellowship, and their chiefe doer in this place, who when hee came first hither, and vntill such time as hee had dispatched those ships from hence, was in hope of goods to lade twelue or thirteene sailes of good ships, against this shipping, wherefore he wrote vnto the sayd Sir *William Garrard* and his companie to send hither this spring the sayd number of thirteene ships. And because that in their comming hither wee found the Freebooters on the sea, and supposing this yeere that they would be very strong, he therefore gaue the said Sir *William* and his Companie aduise to furnish the sayd number of ships so strongly, as they should bee able to withstand the force of the Freebooters: whereupon they haue according to his aduise sent this year thirteene good ships together well furnished with men and munition, and all other necessaries for the warres, of which 13. ships *William Burrough* one of the said fellowship is captaine generall, vnto whom there was giuen in charge, that if hee met with any the *Danske* Freebooters, or whatsoeuer robbers and theeues that are enimies to your highnesse, he should doe his best to apprehend and take them. It so hapned that the tenth day of this moneth, the sayd *William* with his fleete, met with sixe ships of the Freebooters neere vnto an Island called *Tuttee*, which is about 50. verfts from *Narue*, vnto which Freebooters he with his fleet gaue chase, and tooke of them the Admirall, wherein were left but three men, the rest were fled to shore in their boats amongst the woods vpon *Tuttee*, on which ship he set fire and burnt her. He alto tooke foure more of those ships which are now here, and one ship escaped him: out of which foure ships some of the men fled in their boates and so escaped, others were flaine in fight, and some of them when they saw they could not escape, cast themselues willingly into the Sea and were drowned. So that in these fие ships were left but 83. men.

The sayd *Wil. Borough* when he came hither to *Narue*, finding here *Christopher Hodsdon* aforenamed, both the said *Christopher* and *William* together, in the name of sir *William Garrard* and the rest of their whole companie and fellowship, did present vnto your highnesse of those Freebooters taken by our ships 82. men, which we deliuered here vnto *Knez Voiuoda*, the 13. of this moneth. One man of those Freebooters we haue kept by vs, whose name is *Haunce Snarke* a captaine. And the cause why we haue done it is this: When we should haue deliuered him

with the rest of his felowes vnto the *Voiuodae* officers, there were of our Englishmen more then 50. which fell on their knees vnto vs, requesting that he might be referued in the ship, and caried back into England: and the cause why they so earnestly intreated for him, is, that some of those our Englishmen had bene taken with Freebooters, and by his meanes had their liues faued, with great fauour besides, which they found at his hands. Wherefore if it please your highnesse to permit it, we will cary him home with vs into England, wherein we request your maiesties fauour: notwithstanding what you command of him shalbe obserued. *Hakluyt.* i. 401. Ed. 1599.

2. THE BURNING OF MOSCOW BY THE TARTARS, 24 MAY 1571.
—Two accounts are preserved in *Hakluyt* of this catastrophe.

(1) A letter of *Richard Vscombe* to *M. Henrie Lane*, touching the burning of the Citie of *Mosco* by the *Crimme Tartar*: written in *Rose Island* the 5. day of August 1571.

Master *Lane* I haue me commended unto you. The 27. of July I arriued here with the *Magdalene*, and the same day and houre did the *Swallow* and *Harry* arriue here also. At our comming I found master *Proctor* here, by whom wee understand very heauie newes. The *Mosco* is burnt euery sticke by the *Crimme* the 24. day of May last, and an innumerable number of people: and in the English house was smothered *Thomas Southam*, *Tosild*, *Wauerley*, *Greenes* wife and children, two children of *Rafe*, and more to the number of 25. persons were stifeled in oure Beere seller: and yet in the same seller was *Rafe*, his wife, *John Browne*, and *John Clarke* preferued, which was wonderfull. And there went into that seller master *Glouer* and master *Rowley* also: but because the heate was so great, they came foorth againe with much perill, so that a boy at their heeles was taken with the fire, yet they escaped blindfold into another seller, and there, as Gods will was, they were preferued. The Emperour fled out of the field, and many of his people were caried away by the *Crimme Tartar*: to wit, all the yong people, the old they would not meddle with, but let them alone, and so with exceeding much spoile and infinite prisoners, they returned home againe. What with the *Crimme* on the one side, and with his crueltie on the other, he hath but few people left. Commend me to mistresse *Lane* your wife, and to *M. Locke*, and to all our friends. Yours to command, *Richard Vscombe*. *Hakluyt.* i 402. Ed. 1599.

(2) Master *Giles Fletcher*. D.C.L. was sent by Queen Elizabeth. in 1588 as Ambassador to the then Emperor of Russia. While returning, he reduced his observations of the state and manners of that country 'into some order': and published them under the title *Of the Rvffe Common Wealth*. London 1591. [Reprinted in *Hakluyt.* i. 474—497. Ed. 1599.] His account is as follows;

The greatest and mightiest of them [the Tartars] is the *Chrim Tartar*, (whom some call the *Great Cham*) that lieth South, and

Southeastward from *Russia*, and doth most annoy the Countrie by often inuasions, commonly once euery yeare, sometimes entring very farre within the inland parts. In the year 1571. he came as farre as the citie of *Mosko*, with an armie of 200000. men, without any battaile, or resistance at all, for that the *Russe* Emperour (then *Iuan Vasilowich*) leading foorth his armie to encounter with him, marched a wrong way: but as it was thought of very purpose, as not daring to aduenture the fielde, by reason that hee doubted his nobilitie, and chiefe Captaines, of a meaning to betray him to the *Tartar*.

The citie he tooke not, but fired the Suburbs, which by reason of the buildinges (which is all of wood without any stome, brick, or lime, saue certein out roomes) kindled so quickly, and went on with such rage, as that it consumed the greatest part of the citie almost within the space of foure houres, being of 30. miles or more of compasse. Then might you haue seene a lamentable spectacle; besides the huge and mighty flame of the citie all on light fire, the people burning in their houses and streates, but most of all of such as laboured to passe out of the gates farthest from the enemie, where meeting together in a mightie throng, and so pressing euery man to preuent another, wedged themselues so fast within the gate, and streates near vnto it, as that three ranks walked one vpon the others head, the vppermost treading downe those that were lower: so that there perished at that time (as was sayd) by the fire and the preffe, the number of 800000. people, or more.

The *Chrim* thus hauing fired the Citie, and fedde his eyes with the sight of it all on a light flame, returned with his armie, and sent to the *Russe* Emperour a knife (as was sayd) to stick himselfe withall: obbraiding this losse, and his desperate case, as not daring either to meet his enimy in the fielde, nor to trust his friends or subiects at home. Chap 19. 'The borderers of Russia.' fol. 66.

3. PRESTER OR PRESBYTER JOHN, was the name given by the Europeans of the middle ages to a dynasty of supposed eastern potentates. The following account is the history of this legend: —About the beginning of the eleventh century, it began to be reported in Christendom that a certain king beyond Persia and Armenia had been met by the spirit of a departed saint in a forest; that he had been overawed into becoming a true believer; and that he had ordered all his subjects, to the number of 200,000, to adopt the same faith. As time passed by, the report seemed to receive corroboration. Envoys pretending to come from the land in question arrived at Rome. Additional rumours, by what means nobody knew, found their way to the West. The manners and customs of this newly Christianized people were said to retain many traces of the old patriarchal times. The chief was both priest and king, and was known on that account by the name of Prester or Presbyter John. His tribe lived a peaceful

pastoral life, following their flocks through the desert, feeding upon flesh and milk, and being so destitute of corn and wine that they were unable in the prescribed manner to observe the fast-days, or to partake of the eucharist. Nor was the exquisite primitive simplicity of his kingdom unadorned by substantial wealth and majesty. Unbounded treasures were at his command ; many neighbouring nations were his tributaries ; and he swayed supremely with a sceptre of emerald.

Such pleasing reports as these continued to be greedily swallowed by the superstitious in Europe, until investigations commenced to be made. It then began to appear doubtful whether this happy land were not a mere Utopia, and whether this admirable Prester John were not a mere creature of the popular fancy. Carpini, a Franciscan friar who was sent by Pope Innocent IV., in 1246, on an embassy to the Mongols, failed to discover the celebrated nation of Christians. Not long afterwards another Franciscan, William de Rubruquis, who penetrated into Asia as far as Karakorum, could find none but a few Nestorians, who had even heard of the great priest-king. Equally unsuccessful were the Portuguese explorers who reached India by the way of the Cape of Good Hope about the end of the fifteenth century. After fruitlessly seeking for the Prester in Asia, they were fain to suppose, on few or no grounds, that they had found him in Africa in the person of an Abyssinian prince. The result of all these explorations was, that investigators have ceased to inquire into the truth of the story of Prester John, and turned their attention to an explanation of its origin. The most plausible solution is that given by Mosheim in his *Church History*. He supposes that a certain Nestorian priest named John gained possession of a throne in Asiatic Tartary ; that he still retained the name of Presbyter after his accession ; and that the title of Prester John was inherited by his descendants along with the throne, until his dynasty was extirpated by the mighty Tartar emperor Gengiskan.—*Encyclopædia Britannica*, xviii., 511. *Eighth Edition.*

Among the curious descriptions of this fabulous empire is a small work printed in French at Rouen in 1506, of which the title is simply *PERRESTER IEHAN*. While the imprint runs thus—*Cy finent la diuersité des hommes, des bestes et des oiseaux qui sont en la terre de prestre Iehan. Imprimees a Rouen Pour Richard rogerie demourant a morletz.*

It purports to be a letter from Prester John himself to the Emperor of Rome and the King of France, and is dated 'from our holy palace, in the year of our birth 506.' It is a tissue of marvel after marvel : so as to render it hardly credible that it was ever seriously believed in. A few sentences will show its character.

"Prester John by the grace of God all powerful king of all the Christians : to the Emperor of Rome and to the King of France, our friends, greeting. We wish you to know of our state and of government, that is to say, of our people and the different

kind of our animals. And because you say that our people do not agree in worshipping God as you do in your country, we wish you to know that we adore and believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are three persons in one deity and one God alone. And we certify and send to you by our letters sealed with our Seal concerning the state and manner of our land and of our people. And if you will come into our country, for the good that we have heard of you, we will make you lord after us, and will give you large lands and lordships.

Know then that we have the highest crown in all the world. Also gold, silver, and precious stones, and cities, castles, and towns. Know also that we have in our country forty-two kings, all powerful and good Christians. Know also that we support with our alms all the poor in our land whether native or foreign, for the love and honour of Jesus Christ. Know also that we have promised in good-faith to conquer the Sepulchre of our Lord Jesus Christ and also all the Land of Promise. . . .

Also in our country are elephants [oliflans] ; and another kind of animal, very great, called dromedaries ; and white horses, and white oxen, and also savage cattle with feven horns ; bears and lions of different colours, that is to say, red, green, black, and white ; and wild asses with little horns . . . And green horses, that go faster than any other animal in the world. Know also that we have griffons that will easilly carry an ox or an horse into their nests for their little birds to eat.

Know also between us and the Saracens runs a river called Sydonis, which comes from the terrestrial paradise and is quite full of precious stones, that is to say, emeralds, saphirs, rubies, chalcedonies, carbuncles, topas ; and several other kinds that I do not mention : and of each we know the name and vertue. Know also that in our land is an herb called parmanable ; and whosoever carries it upon him, can enchant the Devil and ask him where he is going, and what he is doing on the Earth, and can make him tell ; upon which account the Devil dares not be into our country."

