

THE
ADVENTURES

OF THE

Extravagant Wit;

OR,

The English Swindler.

SWEWING

The various FRAUDS and TRICKS he committed
in and about LONDON.

Extending them also to the most distant Parts of the GLOBE.

AMONGST WHICH ARE THE FOLLOWING :

*How he cozened a rich Usurer, and a young Tradesman—
How he cheated a Scrivener of 300l. which he borrowed
—How he cheated a Gentleman out of his House—Ad-
ventures in a Bawdy-house—He is laid in Prison by one
of his Creditors—a laughable Trick he served a Bailiff,
by which he effected his Escape—He goes on the Highway,
is taken, and committed to Newgate—Receives Sentence of
Death—Is reprieved for Transportation—His adventures
abroad—Curious description of a Burning Mountain, and
various other places—He marries a Black Woman, ap-
plies himself to business, and forsakes his former vicious
Courses.*

The Whole displaying an infinite FUND of
GOOD HUMOUR AND WITTY EXPLOITS.

STIRLING:

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1803.

ADVENTURES
OF THE
EXTRAVAGANT WIT

OR,

The English Swindler.

ONE day I met with an old comrade, that had lately broken open a shop, who told me he had a quantity of good commodities, and desired me to put them off for him: I told him I would. The next day he delivered what he had into my hands. I instantly carried them to an old Usurer, telling him, I only desired to pledge them for such a time, requesting to lend me 50l thereon. He looking upon them to be thrice the value, lent me freely the money propounded, and laid the goods in a place next his bed-chamber. The same day I met with this friend, who demanded of me whether I had done his business? No, not yet, said I, it will be to-morrow first: However, let us drink a glass of wine, which he readily consented to. Having drank pretty smartly, he could not contain himself, but told me whose shop it was he robbed, and at what time. I seemed to take little notice then, though I intended to make good use of it. Parting with him, I went straightway to the person robbed, and told him, that accidentally I was informed of his late loss, and that my intention of coming was out of a principle of honesty, to assist him in the recovery of what was stolen from him. But before I acquainted him with any thing, I required of him a bond of 100 - if I helped him to his goods, which he granted me. I then advised him to get a warrant, which he did,

and taking some friends with him, I directed them where they should go, and in what place they should find them. He would have had me go with them, but that I excused myself from. Taking a constable with them, they went and found what they sought for, according to my direction, which they seized, leaving the old Usurer to condole his loss.

The next I fell on was a young merchant, to whom I went genteely habited, with a foot-boy waiting at my heels. I looked out several commodities and laid them aside, assuring him that I would ever lay out a considerable parcel of money with him. We discoursed upon the price, and in the conclusion closed. The next day I appointed the goods to be sent home to my house, and in the interim, desired him to go along with me, and accept what poor accommodation my habitation would afford him, (under the pretence of being better acquainted; but my design was to raise in him a good opinion of me; for I had one room especially very richly furnished.) My motion was entertained, and away we went, where I treated him nobly. The next day the goods were sent with his servant, who expected his money, but I pretended that my cashier was abroad, and so desired him to call the next morning; he did, but then I was not to be spoken with. Thus he did so often till the young man was weary: at last the master himself came, who met me just as I was going out; who had not the patience to ask for his money, but presently railed most bitterly, calling me cheat, knave, &c. and that he would not put himself to the trouble of positing me up, but would have a warrant for me instantly. Being gone, I was as nimble as himself, having a couple of my emissaries ready with a warrant for him against his return. It was not long before he came strutting with a constable: perceiviug him.

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coming, I sent my two friends out with their warrant, and putting it into the constable's hand, charged him in the king's name to execute it upon the merchant; the constable dare not deny it, but carried him before a Justice, before whom my two rogues swore flat felony, and so he was committed. Sending for friends they advised him to make an end thereof: whereupon I was much solicited; and upon consideration, I consented to cause my friends to forbear prosecution.

Attiring myself one time in one of my richest garbs, I went to a Scrivener in Bow-lane, and acquainted him I had an occasion for an hundred pounds. He demanded the names of my security. I told him where they lived, two persons of eminent worth (whom I knew were going into the country) and desired him to make enquiry, but in it to be private and modest. The Scrivener went, and found them by report, to be what they were, real, able, and sufficient men. Two or three days after, I called upon him, to know whether I might have the money. He told me I might bringing the persons, and appointed me a day. Accordingly I came, with two of my accomplices, attired like wealthy grave citizens who personated such persons so to the life, that the Scrivener could not entertain the least suspicion. The money being ready, I told it over, and putting it up in a bag I and my insignificant bondsmen sealed, leaving the Scrivener to another enquiry after us, whom, if he did not meet, he could never find out by reason of our feigned names.

It chanced that my forged and fictitious name was the same with that of a gentleman in Surry, who was a great purchaser; which I came to know by being accidentally in his company, the next night after I had cheated this credulous Scribe. Where-

upon I went to the Scrivener again, and told him, that I had now a fair opportunity to benefit myself very much by a purchase provided he would assist me with two hundred pounds more. But, sir, said I, take notice (in a careless and generous frankness) that it is out of a particular respect to you, that you might profit by me, that I come again; neither will I now give you any other security than my own bond; but if you will desire to be satisfied as to my estate, pray let your servant go to such a place in Surry, there is a piece of gold to bear his charges. He promised me to do what I required. Imagining what time his servant would return, I appeared to him again and understood that he received as much satisfaction as he could require. Hereupon I had on my own bond the money paid me.

I cannot but laugh to think how strangely the Surry gentleman was surpris'd, when the money becoming due, was demanded of him; and how like the figure of the man in hangings the Scrivener looked, when he found himself cheated.

Walking one time in the fields, I was got as far as Hackney before I thought where I was, for my thoughts were busied about designs. Casting my eye on the one side of me, I saw the prettiest built house that ever I beheld. I presently had a covetous desire to be master thereof: I walked but a little way further, and I soon found out a plot to accomplish my desires. I returned, and knocked at the gate, and demanded of the servant whether his master was within? I understood he was, and thereupon desired to speak with him. The gentleman came out to me himself, desiring me to walk in. After I had made a genteel apology, I told him my business, which was only to request the favour of him, that I might have the privilege to bring a workman to survey his house, and take the dimen-

frons thereof; because I was so well pleased with the building, that I eagerly desired to have another built exactly after that pattern. The gentleman could do no less than to grant me so small a civility. Coming home, I wen to a carpenter, telling I was about buying an house in Hackney, and that I would have him accompany me, to give me (in private) the estimate. Accordingly we went, and found the gentleman at home, who entertained me kindly. In the mean time the carpenter took an exact account of the butts and bounds of the house on paper; which was as much as I desired for the time. Paying the carpenter well I dismissed him, and by that paper had a lease drawn, with a very great fine (mentioned to have been paid) at a small rent; witnesses thereto I could not want. Shortly after, I demanded possession, the gentleman, thinking me out of my wits, only laughed at me: I commenced my suit against him, and brought my own creatures to swear the sealing and delivery of the Lease; the carpenter's evidence, with many other probable circumstances to strengthen my cause, whereupon I had a verdict. The gentleman understanding what I was, thought it safer to compound with me, and loose something, rather than loose all.

Wanting one time some money to supply my present occasions, I could not think of any means to assist me in this necessity, but to sell my feather bed with furniture thereunto belonging. Packing them up I got a friend to go along with the porter, and sell them to an upholsterer: Which he did, bringing me about half their worth. A week afterwards wanting my bed, I resolved to have it again; whereupon I went to him that bought it asking him whether at such a time there were not such article sold him? He acknowledged there was. I desired

to see them, and he as readily granted that. Sir, said I, these are my goods: I was lately robbed, and now I know you are the receiver, I must have you before a Justice to know how you came by them. The name of a Justice so terrified the fellow, that he bade me take them, if I could swear they were mine, and put him to no further trouble. I swore they were my goods, (and therein I was not perjured) but I told him, I could not receive stolen goods safely, though they were my own. In short, I got my bed and furniture again, with money to boot.

After an extraordinary run of luck, gained at cards by myself and two of my companions, we came to a determination to share the cash; and, upon the division, we found each man's share to amount to 40*l*. Being overjoyed at my good success, I resolved to return thanks for my good fortune in some private meeting-house, where I might have a sister to assist in the carrying on the work of the day. I had no sooner intimated my desire, but presently one of my rope-brokers gave me intimation of a place fit for that purpose. He advised me, when I came to the door, to pretend I came to enquire out lodgings. I went according to my directions; but at the first I thought myself abused by these rogues, or mistaken in the house, when I saw a porter standing at the door: to undeceive myself, I confidently, yet civilly, asked him whether there were any lodgings to be let there? Yes, sir, said he, which you may view if you will give yourself the trouble of walking in. I had no sooner entered the door, but I was met by a grave matron: Madam, said I, I am informed that here are lodgings to be let: There is so, sir, said she; and with that conducted me into her parlour, there to take a stricter view of me, as to my person and garb, by

which she might judge how well lined my pockets were. After resolving some trivial questions, she then shewed me the way up stairs, into a very large dining-room, adorned round with excellent pictures, the effigies of divers ladies (as I took them to be) celebrated in former ages for the fairest and most beautiful of that sex. A servant brought us a bottle of Sack, without any order given, as I could perceive, out of which the old gentlewoman drank to me, expressing my welcome. For want of other discourse, (as I thought) because we were both silent a while, sir, said she, as you are a gentleman, you may have some knowledge in the noble art of lining, so much studied by the pentry of this nation; wherefore, your judgement, sir, which of all these pictures is the best drawn, or hath the best features? Madam, said I, I shall freely give you my opinion; which is, This, in my opinion, (pointing at one) for she hath a full large front, her arched eye-brows are thick and black, her eyes are of the same colour, and seem to penetrate that which they look on;—view her lips, whose plumpness and redness resemble a double cherry. What might be said more of this representation I shall wave, wishing myself no greater happiness than to discourse the rest with the real substance:—Which is not impossible, sir, if you can have but the faith to believe your own eyes; and so instantly withdrew herself, leaving me amazed at what I had seen. Hearing a rustling of silks, I drew my eyes off the picture, and looking towards the door, there I saw enter an angel; for I could not believe there could be so much perfection in any one mortal. With profound reverence I stood at a distance, admiring, or rather adoring her person, till she smilingly desired me to sit down. Being come to myself, I began to talk to her, and in half an hour, confidence had repossessed her ancient seat in me. It would not only take up too much time,

but also offend the ears of the modest reader, here to insert what discourse we had; therefore I shall wave it, and come to the conclusion. Sir, said she, I question not but that you are acquainted with the customs of the house? I protested to her, that I was altogether ignorant. Why, you must know, that you may call for what wine you please, not exceeding four bottles; and if you please to eat, you shall have some choice bit, suitable to the season: if you stay not all night, your expence shall be but forty shillings, and you shall have to boot the enjoyment of a mistress: but if you stay all night, then thus must you do. you must deposit, before you go to bed, ten guineas, laying it underneath your own head, and for every kiss, &c. take a piece back again; and if you draw in this manner all your own tiack, you may next day be dismissed with a great deal of applause, without expending a penny. I was stark mad to be at it, and so impatient, that I presently told out ten pieces. Telling my money the next morning, I found I had drawn eight pieces of my ten; and thought two guineas were never better spent, nor husbanded with so much recreation and delight.

Having gone thus far without any remarkable check, at least any such as might bear a proportion with the villanies and injuries I had done; I absolutely thought that nothing was dishonest or difficult, that had in it either pleasure or profit. Meeting with no molestation or hindrance, I took my freedom to do even what I listed. But when I thought myself most secure, I then found I was in the greatest danger: several times there was attempts made to take me, but I was still too cunning for them; yet at last they over-reached me, being arrested in an action of 5000*l*. and conveyed to the King's Bench. Being soon weary of this place,

wherein are as many maladies and mischiefs as flew out of Pandora's box. I invented this stratagem: One day I pretended much business abroad, and so got leave to go out with my keeper, resolving not to return with him. Having been from tavern to alehouse, and so to tavern again, pretending the dispatch of much business, I at length told my keeper, that I would visit a very dear friend of mine, but that I thought it requisite to be trimmed first. He consenting we went to a barber's; I sat down in the chair first, and being dispatched I desired the keeper to sit down too, and I would pay for sprucing his phytiognomy. Whilst he was trimming I talked of one thing or other, to hold him in discourse. At last said the barber that your eyes, or else my ball will offend you. Shutting his eyes, I took an occasion to slip out, planting myself in an house hard by; the barber not imagining I was a prisoner. The keeper not hearing me talk, valued not the smart, but opened his eyes; and seeing me not in the shop, rose up, and that so hastily, that he overthrew Cuibeard, and the basin upon him, running out into the street with the barber's cloth about him. The people seeing him thus, with the froth about his face, concluded him mad, and as he ran gave him the way. The barber with his razor ran after the keeper, crying, stop him, stop him, that I may be revenged on the rogue. The other ne'er minding the outcry, ran staring up and down as if his wits had stolen away from him, and he in pursuit of them. To conclude, the barber at last seized him, and having recovered his cloth, and made him pay for shaving, he was dismissed with a kick or two in the backside, the barber not suffering him to speak a word in his own defence.

Thus freeing myself, I went to take the country air, when happily I met with my two old comrades.

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The next tavern was our council-chamber, and wine was the diet for . . . We there unanimously concluded it was a thing beneath us to pick up here and there a crown, but resolved to have at all, knowing that a five hour's adventure might make us possessors of 300l. With this resolution we went and bought us horses, with all things requisite for our intended expedition: being already and well prepared, we took our leaves of London for a while. We had not rid above fifteen miles when we bairied: the hostler knowing me, and what designs I had formerly been upon, and imagining I was steering the same course, whispered me in the ear, that he had a desire to speak with me instantly: taking my opportunity, under pretence of looking to my horse, I went to the stable, where he informed me, that there were three within drinking, that next morning would travel such a road, and that they had a great charge with them. I thanked him bidding him come to my chamber at night, where I would discourse farther with him: then he gave me a summary account of all; and after promises to him of reward if we prospered, we betook ourselves to our rest. In the morning very early we called for our horses and rid in the road through which those three travellers were to pass, where we placed ourselves very conveniently. About three hours after, we could discern them at a distance; and by the time we had made ourselves ready, they were at hand. Just at the bottom of a small hill, we bid them stand: they asked us to what intent: we told them, that we were younger brothers, and wanted money, and therefore must borrow some of them: With that they all in an instant drew their pistols; but we being ready provided with our pistols, fired at them, and they again at us: we were all at level-coil, and very equally matched; the second shot killed my horse, and a fourth bereaved one of my

comrades of life; the third rogue ran away. Being in a labyrinth of perplexity, I thought it the best way to sell my life at as dear a rate as I could (knowing very well, that if I was taken I should be hanged.) I fought with my sword as long as I could stand upon my legs, wounding both them and their horses; but at last one of them unhappily ran me through the sword hand, and thereupon I was disarmed. I was carried by them before the next Justice of Peace, and by him was committed. I could not now expect any thing but death; but the next news I heard was, that I must be removed to Newgate, there being other things to be alledged to my charge. I was therefore mounted in order to my removal, but very badly mounted, being bound thereunto, and pinioned. As soon as the keeper saw me, leaping for joy, O sir, are you come again? we will take care of you now; and so without more ado, he confined me close prisoner to a dungeon.

Appearing at the next Sessions, and seeing so many of my adversaries ready to give in their evidence against me, I concluded myself a lost man; my very countenance betrayed both my thoughts of guilt and despair. In short, I received sentence of death to be hanged at Tyburn by the neck till I was dead: I thought these sad tidings would presently have deprived me of life, and so have saved the hangman the labour. All the way I went back to Newgate, I fancied nothing but gibbets stood in my way; and I saw no other trades but cord-winders. Being entered the prison, I was forthwith put into a dungeon, and laden with shackles. I had not been many hours there, before a charitable physician of the soul, I mean a minister, came to visit me; who advised me to repent, since it was high time; and endeavouring to disburthen my conscience, by extracting from me a general ingenious confession of what crimes I had committed:

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Finding this person to have no other design, but merely for my soul's sake, I dissected the actions of my whole life, not omitting any thing that might be accounted sinful. He was amazed to hear such notorious roguery in one man, and so young; wherefore, before he applied any cordial, he administered his corrosives, and so thoroughly searched every corner of my heart, that there was nothing hid from him. In the first place, he made me sensible of the wickedness of my life, and that every, nay, the least evil action, deserved the loss of eternal happiness, and instead thereof, torments everlasting and intolerable. It will take too much time to give an account of every thing this pious man alledged for my information, contrition, and consolation: so effectually and powerfully he delivered his divine message, that the obdurateness of my heart was able to hold out no longer, but melting into tears, was willing to have its flintiness broken by the hammer of Sacred Writ. Finding me in so good a temper, he left me to God and myself, for the perfecting of that work he had so hopefully and successfully begun.

From the time of my condemnation till Monday morning I slept not, neither did I eat or drink: then did I hear my passing bell (having the day before heard my funeral sermon) every stroke methought carried my soul one degree higher, being confident I made my peace above. Whilst I was in the depth of meditation, and my soul breathing out this short ejaculation:

*Is there no hope now of relief,
In this extremity;
Mercy ere now hath sav'd a thief,
And may do as much for me:*

Behold a friend came to me (that never visited me during my imprisonment) but now, in the time of

need brought me a reprieve: when I looked there-
 on at first, I could not believe my own eye: I
 thought I dreamed, or that grief had so distracted
 me, as that I imagined things that were not. My
 friend at length cleared up my doubts; but I shall
 tell you this for a truth, I knew not whether I had
 best accept of this life preserving courtesy; for me
 thought I had so well settled my eternal concerns
 as that I had nothing else to do but die.

About a fortnight after, I was sent on board, in
 order to my transportation; my sentence of death
 being converted into a seven years banishment.

Soon after being on board, we set sail but had
 not been out above five days, before our vessel sprung
 a leak; and after applying ourselves to the pumps
 without any manner of success, we all committed
 ourselves to the mercy of the waves, in the long
 boat, driving we knew not whether. After being
 the sport of the sea about two days, in the most pe-
 rious situation, we at length got sight of a vessel
 bound for the Canaries, which with great difficulty
 fortunately came up with us, and took us on board.
 Misfortune did not yet seem tired of pursuing us
 for the very next night after our deliverance, a most
 terrible storm arose, which before morning carried
 away our bowsprit and mizen, together with the
 rudder; which rendering her unmanageable, after
 beating up and down four days and as many nights
 she at length struck upon some prodigious rocks
 which however not being situated far from shore, we
 providentially escaped with our lives; and directed
 our course to a small house we perceived at a dis-
 tance: the master of which (treated us very kind-
 ly) was captain of a small vessel that lay at Perim-
 bana, a small distance from where we were ship-
 wrecked; who being bound to the Indies, asked me
 whether I would go with him, to which I contented
 and in a few days we set sail for our intended voy-

ie. An hour before day, we left the port, and sailed along the coast before the wind; about noon we discerned three vessels, whereupon we gave them chase: in less than two hours we got up to them, and then we could easily perceive that they were Turkish galleys; whereof we were no sooner assured, but we betook ourselves to flight, making to land with all speed possible. The Turks understanding our design, presently hoisted up all their sails, and having the wind favourable, bore up so close, that they discharged their ordnance on us, wherewith they killed eight of our men, and so battered our ship, that we were forced to throw a great quantity of our lading over-board. The Turks in the mean while lost no time, but grappled us; and we, knowing that on our valour and courage depended our lives, or loss of liberty, resolved to fight it out. With this determination we boarded one of them, but being overpowered with numbers, and so overprest and wearied, that we desisted from making any further resistance: for of 35 men we had at first, we only had remaining 10, whereof two died the next day, whom the Turks cut in quarters and hung at their main-yards, as a sign of victory. Being taken, we were carried to a town called Mocoa. We were chained all together, and in that manner were we led in triumph; and as we passed along, we had our heads washed with women's rose-water, thrown down upon us from balconies, with other filth, in derision and contempt of the name of Christian. Having tired themselves in tormenting us, bound as we were, they clapped us into a dungeon, where we remained 21 days, exposed to all kind of misery, having no other provision allowed us than a little rice and water, which was distributed to us every morning: for variety sake, we had some times a small quantity of peas soaked in water. Being tired of punishing, they brought us into

the market-place, and put us up for sale. An
ravenous Jew taking a fancy to me, I was accordi
purchased; but by a cunning stratagem, got my
released to a Christian at heart (though under
disguise of a Grecian,) when I once more embarc
for the East Indies with my new master.

Soon after we set sail we were becalmed, had
not the least breeze of wind, the weather wh
being exceeding hot and sultry: at length we
arrived in Swalley-Road, where was riding an En
lish vessel; there we cast anchor. The Engli
men came of us, whom our captain welcomed w
the best of his entertainment. I could not forb
embracing my dear countrymen, shewing them
many demonstrations of joy, that by their loo
they seemed to question whether I was in my ri
wits. Their mate calling me aside, asked me
I came to be engaged in this vessel? and how lo
since I came from England? to all which I g
him satisfactory answers; and in fine, I told him
I had a great desire to see England again, and to t
end desired him to make use of what interest
could, to remove me into their ship: he promi
he would, and accordingly, giving a present to
captain, he prevailed upon him to let me go.
three days time we set sail from Swalley-Ro
steering our course from thence all along the co
of India, Decan, and Malabar. I knew not whi
they intended, neither did I care now, as think
myself safe, being among friends.

Seven days from our sailing from Swalley-ro
we came to an anchor at Delyn, a town of the M
labars: We durst not land, the people being
treacherous and bloody; yet we suffered them
come aboard us in their small canoes, selling for a
trifles, Cocoa-nut, Jacks, Green-pepper, India
peas, Eggs, and the like. These Malabars are co
black, well-limbed, their hair long and curled;

out their heads they only tie a small piece of linen,
 but about their bodies nothing but a little cloth,
 which covers their secrets. Notwithstanding their
 cruelty and inhumanity, we manned out our long-
 boat, and fifteen, whereof I was one, went ashore,
 carrying some musquets and swords with us, suspec-
 ting the worst: landing, they fled from us, but not
 without sending good store of poisoned arrows and
 darts among us. We returned to our ship, finding
 no way safe to stay here longer. Next morning
 hoisting sail, we came to Canavar, where we met
 with people more civil, whereupon we landed; and
 receiving things from the inhabitants of consider-
 able value, for toys and trifles we gave them in lieu,
 we resolved to stay here a while. The poor sort of
 these people have nothing but a small veil over their
 privates, wholly naked elsewhere; which veil or
 flap the women in courtesy will turn aside, and shew
 to man their pudenda, by way of gratitude for any
 favour received. They have a strange custom in
 their marriages, observed among them by the
 highest to the lowest: whose marrieth, is not to
 have the first night's embraces with his bride, but
 very well contented to bestow her maidenhead on
 the Bramini or Priest, who do not always enjoy it,
 being glutted with such frequent offerings, and
 therefore will many times sell them to strangers.
 Such a proffer I had once made me, and with shame
 must confess I did accept it, forgetting those vows
 made in Newgate, to live a more pious, strict, and
 sober life. The bride that night was placed in one
 of their Fanes, as it is customary, the Priest or Bra-
 min coming to her; but instead thereof, according
 to agreement between the Priest and me, I went:
 I wondered to find her so low of stature, but I did
 not much matter it then, minding something else;
 which having performed, I departed. The next
 morning I had a great desire to see her, but was

amazed to find her so young, believing it impossible (though I knew the contrary) a child (for I may call her, being but seven years of age) could be capable of man's reception at that tender age. Afterwards I was informed, it was usual for them to marry, so soon being extremely salacious and lecherous, and as fit, nay, as prone to enjoy man at that age, as Europeans at fourteen.

So soon as we arrived (which is a custom the use to all strangers, of what country soever) we had presented us choice of many virgins: our boatswain choosing one he fancied, for a small price, she guided him to a lodging, where, if he would have staid long, she would have performed his domestic affair as well at board as bed discharging her duty very punctually: but he that undertakes any such thing must be very wary that he be not familiar with another woman, lest that she with whom he hath contracted himself for such a time, doth recompense his inconstancy with mortal poison. At his departure, her wages must be paid to her parents, who returns then with much joy, and they receive him with as much credit and ostentation. The chiefs among them hold it a very great courtesy, if any one will save them the labour pain and trouble, accepting the hymeneal rites of his bride.

After leaving Canavar, we touched at Zeylon and Syam, and then steered our course for Bantam; but being much straitned by the way for want of fresh water, we were compelled to make up to the first land we descried. Though the darkness of the night blinded our eyes from such discoveries, yet flames of fire not far distant from us, gave us perfect intelligence that land was not far off. That night we cast anchor, fearing we might run foul of some rock or shelf; in the morning we saw a large tract of land before us, not knowing what place it should be. Our captain commanded the long-boat to

manned out, to procure water, if and good were there: among the rest I went for one. Coming on shore, and seeing this hill now and then belch out flames, by my persuasions I made my fellows forget for a time their errand they came about, to make some inquisition into this miracle of nature: whereupon we all resolved to ascend the hill, and with much difficulty we came so nigh the top, that we heard a most hideous noise proceeding from the concave thereof; so terrible it was, that we now began to condemn our rash attempt, and stood at a convenient distance, judging it the only medium of our safety. Whilst we were thus in a delirium, not knowing what was the best to be done, the mountain was instantly possessed with an ague-fit, and afterwards vomiting up smoke and stones into the air (which immediately after fell down in a shower upon our heads) we thought we could not escape without a miracle; and whilst we were all striving which way with greatest expedition we might eschew the danger, there rose in the midst of us such an heap of earth, ashes, and fire, as that all seemed as so many moveable burning beacons; and without any thoughts of helping each other, every one endeavoured to secure himself; and though I was the last in the company, yet in this expedition it was much available to me; for my companions making more haste than good speed, tumbling down the hill before me, fell several of them together, which blocks lying in my way, obstructed my passage, and so saved the breaking of my neck, which otherwise would have been inevitable. In this prodigious conflict, most of us lost the hair of our heads, not without receiving several batteries upon the out-works of our bodies. At first sight we were much afraid, but the consequence made it appear we were not more afraid than hurt. We made a shift to crawl down the rest of the way, and hav-

ing fixed our unadvised feet on the bottom of the mountain, we resolved we would never again pay so dearly for our curiosity; but forthwith went in search of some spring, that might serve as well to quench our clothes as our thirst. What we sought for we quickly found; and so filling our casks, we made what haste we could aboard. The captain and the rest stood amazed to see us look so ghastly and were very impatient to know what was the matter with us: we told them succinctly what had happened, and what great dangers we underwent instead of pitying us, they only laughed at us for being such adventurous fools. Having furnished ourselves with what we wanted, we set sail again for Bantam, where we safely arrived in a short time.

As soon as we came into the harbour before Bantam, we went ashore to acquaint the President what we were, and by what authority we came thither to traffic; being empowered by the East India Company. We were received with much demonstrations of joy, and nobly feasted for three days together. In a week's time I learned by observation the custom of the country, and manner of trading, our merchant taking up goods daily, and sending them aboard, without giving present satisfaction; it being sufficient that he belonged to such a ship and therefore must pay before he goes, otherwise the king will arrest the ship, compelling him to make restitution or payment. One time I met with a Bannyan, or China merchant whom I observed to have a box full of precious stones: I could not sleep for thinking how I should make myself a partner with him: at last I hammered out this invention: clothed myself in Indian silk, according to the custom of the country, and discoloured my face, and clapped a black patch upon one of my eyes. In this equipage I address myself to this Bannyan, who presently laid open his treasure to my view. I was

long in chusing what I esteemed as most valuable; and demanding of him the price, we agreed should have either so many pieces of English lead, within two days or else take his choice of what commodities I had aboard. We made a shift to understand each other's broken expressions; and without the least suspicion of my treachery, delivered the stones into my hands. Taking off my disguise I went instantly aboard, and hid what I had cheated the Bannyan of (which I might easily do for the smallness of its bulk) in the hold of our ship, resolving not to go ashore yet a while. The day of payment being come, and the Bannyan nowhere finding me on land, came aboard of our ship; where by signs he made known to our captain his demand — That a merchant belonging to his ship had bought eight commodities of him, and promised to pay for them on that day. Our captain replied, That he could not believe he was mistaken (as knowing what commodities the merchants belonging properly to our ship had bought) and therefore told him, he should make enquiry elsewhere for satisfaction. The Bannyan still persisted, alledging he was not mistaken, and that he was confident, if he might have a sight of all the men, he could out of them select the concerned person. Hereupon the captain ordered that all should be called aloft, which was speedily performed. He went all round, viewing every man particularly, and very heedfully; at last he came to me, and there made a stand, (which had like to have made my heart start out of my breast:) he looked on me on this side, and on the other side, and to be truly, on every side; and having thoroughly viewed me, he ran to our captain, saying, that should be the man (pointing to me) but that he is a white man, and hath two fees (that is, two eyes.) Whereupon I was strictly examined; but for all his sisting, I would not let drop any thing of a confession

that should convict me of guilt; but with lift up hands and eyes to heaven, I utterly denied ever I saw this man, or ever had any dealing with him. In short the Bannyan, since he could not positively I was the man, was dismissed, not with a solemn vow he would be revenged of us all in general; and I was cleared of the indictment.

The next day, a great many of our men went ashore, and going into China-row, (a street so call'd in Bantam) to drink punch, a great crew of Indians and Chinese (headed by this Bannyan) fell upon them, killing whom they could, not directing their revenge upon any particular person, (which they call Running a Muck :) So hot and sharp was the conflict, that many were killed on both sides, and more wounded. This accident alarmed the whole town, but most especially the English there residing; but at last, with much ado, this grand uproar was calmed. It was my good fortune that I was then among them, otherwise I might have been made a sacrifice among the rest of my fellows; but I was pre-informed that such broils are usual upon such occasions, wherefore I kept myself out of harm's-way for that time.

But not long after, thinking their malice was blown over, I went ashore, and walking with others of our ship's crew, in the same Row, (where most of our men used to resort) a fellow came towards me with this Bannyan I cheated, and both of them with Creases, (a kind of dagger of about a foot or half long) would have stabbed me, had not my fellows prevented them, by striking up their heels, and afterwards, with their own Creases, stabbed them to the heart. After this we could walk very quietly, without any disturbance, going any where without danger.

I never came ashore but I drank pretty freely of punch, arrack, &c. which was brought in

China jugs, holding at least two quarts; with every such jug there was brought in a dish of sweetmeats, for which we paid a shilling English; and if you called for another jug, you paid no more, unless a lish ushered it in.

One house especially I much frequented, for the Indian woman's sake that kept it; for though she was black, or rather tawny, yet she was well-featured and well-formed, having long black hair, when she untied the tresses hanging down to her legs. She from the first shewed me as much kindness as could be expected from that lump of barbarism; and I could discern her inclinations, but yet it went against my stomach to yield to her motions. However, she continued her love to me, not letting me pay for anything I called for: and when there was no necessity of being aboard, she would in a manner make me lie in her house. (which as their houses commonly are, had but one story:) the beds they use are a kind of hard quilt; for were they soft, the hotness of the climate would cause them to be very destructive to man's body, even melting his very reins. Gold and jewels she had great quantity, with an house richly furnished after the Indian fashion. For this consideration, I persuaded myself to marry her, and with several arguments alledged, I gained so much conquest over myself, that I could kiss her without disgorging myself; and by accustoming myself to her company, methought I began to take some delight in it. By degrees, interest so overpowered me, that I resolved to marry her. Having one night (lying there) seriously considered of my resolution, and liking it indifferent well, I fell asleep; but wondered when I awaked, to see a thing lie by me all black. It seems she could hold out no longer: I intended to flee from her, but she held me fast in her arms, using what rhetoric she could to persuade me to the

contrary. I asked her what she meant? She told me, in a little broken English she had got, that it would money me (marry me she meant: Ay, money me, said I, that I like well: but without it, let the devil have married her for me. I asked her several questions, to which she gave me satisfaction, and I enjoined her several things, which she readily conditioned to; whereupon I gave her the first fruits of her desires.

Interest so blinded my reason, that I went instantly to my captain, and gave him information of my proceedings, desiring his consent in the marrying the Indian, alledging how advantageous it would be to me. He granted my request, upon my earnest importunity; and being dismissed from his service, we were married by an English priest, she renouncing her Paganism.

What money was got by my wife's trade, I laid out in such commodities the country afforded; as Calicoes, Pepper, Indigo, Green Ginger, &c. and sold them immediately to the ships lying in the harbour, doubling what I laid out: so that in a short time, I found my stock to increase beyond expectation. Such satisfaction my black received from me, that she thought she could not do enough to please me. I was an absolute monarch in my family; she and her servants willingly condescending to be my vassals: yet though I thus enjoyed the prerogative of an husband, yet I did not lord it too much; which won so much upon my wife's affections, and those that were concerned with her, that as soon as I desired any thing, it was immediately performed, with much alacrity and expedition; so that I could now consider myself completely happy.

FINIS.