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THE CALCUTTA REVIEW. VOLUME LXII. 1876. Edited By E. LETIIBRIDGE, M.a. *No man who hath tasted learning but will con/ess the many ways of profiting by those who, not contented with stale receipts, are able to manage and set forth new positions to the world: and, were they but as the dust and cinders of our feet, so long as in that notion they may yet serve to polish and brighten the armoury of truth, even for that respect they were not utter ly to be cast away.* #8212;MILTON.

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ii â€ž IX.â€ž THE 'NINE ISLANDS' OF THE MALAYS. 1. â€ž Vocabulary of Dialects spoken in the Nicobar and Andaman Isles. With a short account of the Natives, their customs and habits; and of pre- attempts at Colonization. 2nd Edition. By F. A. de Calcutta. 1875. 2. â€ž Selections from the Records of the Government of India. Home Department. Vol. L XXVII. Calcutta. 1870, 185 X.-THE NINE-LAKH CHAIN : OR THE MARI FEUD: Being The First Portion Op The Lay Of Alga ... 209 â€ž XI.â€ž MR. EDWIN ARNOLD'S The Indian Song of Songs. From the Sanskrit of the of With other Or i- Poems. By Edwin Arnold, M.a., F.r.c.s., of University College, Oxford; Formerly Principal of the Poona College, and Fellow of the Univ er- sit y of Bombay. London : & Co. 1875 234 CRITICAL NOTICES:â€ž 1. â€ž Vernacular Literature: â€ž Sequel to By Calcutta. New Sanskrit Press. 1874. i : or the Microscope :â€ž a Monthly Magazine of Hygiene, Practice of Medicine, and other Topics. Part 1, No. 1.

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1.â€"Vernacular Literature:â€" Gupta. Calcutta: G. C. Ray and Company. 1933 ix Paint Nirvana. By Cal- cut ta: New School-book Press

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Ant. I.â€"INDIA IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. *Travels in India in the Seventeenth Century:* By Sir Thomas Roe and Dr. John Fryer. London : & Co., 1873. ABOUT the time that Milton composed the opening lines of his second book of Paradise Lost, where he speaks of "the wealth of or of Ind, Or where the gorgeous East with richest hand Scatters on her kings barbaric pearl and gold," a solitary Englishman, Dr. Fryer, was wending his way to the capital of the Mogul King, to realise for himself the splendid pageantry of an Eastern court, of which historians had written and poets sung. From the earliest times the spirit of enquiry had never slept, and strenuous exertions were made to extend the knowledge of India, then scarcely known but by name, and to acquire some accurate information regarding the manners and customs of the various races of men by whom it was inhabited. The fabulous opulence and the unheard-of magnificence of Indian potentates always had a fascination for Englishmen thirsting for adventures in foreign lands. Allied to this, the fame of that myth known to the readers of modern history as Pr ester John also led a great many enterprising characters to seek premature death in their fruitless attempts to penetrate into the wildest and least accessible parts of the globe. Somewhere between the

confines of China in the east and of America in the west imagination had located the dominion of this creature of the fancy, though what particular locality it embraced was not known with any degree of precision. Travellers and others had heard of the monarch, and the report of his Conversion to Christianity helped to lend additional stimulus to their already excited imagination. It was only gradually, and when the light of reason broke upon the Dark Ages, that the ideas of the wildest visionaries came to be sobered down to the realities of every-day existence. To sit by one's fireside and in the enjoyment of a sense of security to read of hair-breadth escapes and perilous adventures by field and flood is at all times an exciting occupation of the mind, hence books of travel are eagerly sought after by almost every section of the reading public. But their value and charm are enhanced if they describe the manners, customs and institutions of a people in whose mental and material progress we are deeply concerned. To acquaint ourselves with the details of their private life, what they did, how they contrived to exist, in fact to see the Indian of a couple of centuries back brought face to face with us in the writings of one of our own flesh and blood, who paints this age for the reader such as no other writer has done, "the very form and pressure of the time" must ever be an interesting subject of speculation to Englishmen generally. Such observations, if correctly made, apart from prejudice, throw considerable light on sociology and primitive culture, two of the most important branches of human knowledge which are attracting a good deal of attention at the present day. In the volume before us we have the actual experiences of Indian life by two Englishmen related in the popular style of the seventeenth century. At the time Sir Thomas Roe, Ambassador from King James I of England to the Emperor Jahangir, paid it a visit, the modern island of Johanna, which supplied most of the stones used in constructing Fort William and Fort St. George, was governed by a Sultan who had more liberal ideas of free trade than are entertained by some of the sovereigns in civilized Europe. To Captain present of "a piece and a sword blade" the Sultan returned "four bullocks," and gave "free liberty to buy and sell, and signifying so much by a messenger to the inhabitants round about, promised to send Dow his own cattle, but professed he had no power to compel or make price for others, but left the trade open to every man's will." At this interview our traveller for the first time observed the habit of chewing 'p'd n, which he so quaintly describes. "He sent for cocoa nuts to give the company, himself chewing betel and lime of burnt oyster shells with a kernel of nut called like an acorn; it bites in the mouth, avoids rheum, cools the head, strengthens the teeth, and is all their physic: it makes one unused to it giddy, and makes a man's spittle red, and in time colours the teeth, which is esteemed a beauty." He shared in the belief current in his day that the tribe of Bedouin Arabs are a sect of Jacobite Christians. And his reasons for inclining to the opinion of Purchase, and others is, that one of his *companions de voyage*, Bough ton by name, saw an old church of theirs at Socorro in ruins and the gate closed. On expressing a desire to enter it he was told by the Sheikh that it was full of spirits. In spite of all remonstrances he did effect an entrance into the edifice, and found there an altar with several images and a cross upon it which he brought away. In these days of the irrepressible shoe question and the humble pie our political s have to eat in the courts of petty Rajahs, it is quite refreshing to read of the indomitable pluck and energy of an isolated Englishman insisting on conforming to the ceremonies of his native land and occupying a seat by the side of the son of the Great Mogul. On showing a bold front to the governor of the latter condescended to come down from his high estate and occupy a seat alongside of Sir Thomas Roe, but a slight *contretemps* marred future proceedings. Among the presents offered to the governor was a case containing bottles of European wines, of which he imbibed so copiously that the visit ended rather abruptly, and the ambassador was told to call the next day. It was here that the latter had the first taste of an Indian climate in the shape of a bad fever which confined him to his bed for some days.

He speaks by report of the ruins of Del y (Delhi) and of a pillar erected by Alexander " the

Conqueror " with a great inscription. "The present Mogul and his ancestors, descendants of Tamerlane, have brought all the ancient cities to ruin, having dispeopled them and forbidden reparation, I know not out of what reason, unless they would have nothing remembered as greatness beyond their beginnings, as if their family and the world were equals." The ambassador was received by Jahangir at in great state. It happened to be on the festival of Nowra, and the reception was on a grander scale than usual. Among the decorations of the throne were "the pictures of the King of England, the Queen, the Lady Elizabeth, the Countess of Somerset and Salisbury, and of a citizen's wife of London, below them another of Sir Thomas Smith, Governor of the East India Company." After the usual return of compliments the Englishman disclosed the object of his mission, ' which " was to conclude a firm and constant love and peace between their majesties, and to establish a fair and secure trade and residence for my countrymen." He, however, experienced great difficulties from the beginning to the end, owing to the machinations of Asaph Khan, the father-in-law of the Emperor, who was all the while throwing obstacles clandestinely in his way, to the extent even of bullying his interpreter by means of threatening gestures. Jahangir was very much pleased with the presents brought for him from England, but expressed great desire to possess an English horse, for which he offered a lake of rupees, and would not be satisfied with the explanation that the dangers by sea were so great that it would be impossible to land one safely in his dominions. The Portuguese, who were jealous of the rise of the English power, in the meantime raised a faction against them by means of bribery and corruption among the courtiers, which was also joined by one of the princes, and it required all the persuasion of the honest Englishman to continue in the good graces of the Emperor.

On what a slight thread hangs the life and liberty of even a king's nephew under a savage potentate, will best appear from the following anecdote :â€" " The King commanded one of his brother's sons (who was made a Christian in policy to bring him into hatred with the people) to go and strike a lion on the head, which was brought before the King, but he being afraid, refused it; so the King bade his youngest son to go touch the lion, who did so without any harm, whereat the King took occasion to send his nephew away to prison, where he is never like to see daylight." Here is a pleasant episode in the history of an Eastern monarch :â€" "A gentlewoman of was taken in the King's house with a eunuch; another capon that loved her killed him; the poor woman was set up to the armpits in the earth, hard rammed, her feet tied to a stake, to abide three days and two nights without any sustenance, her head and arms exposed to the sun's violence; if she died not in that time, she should be pardoned. The eunuch was condemned to the elephants. This damsel yielded in pearls, jewels and ready money sixteen hundred thousand rupees." The natives of India seem to have attained to some perfection in the art of painting. Sir Thomas Roe having made a present of a picture to the Emperor, one of his cavaliers executed half a dozen copies of it, which bore so great a resemblance to the original that Sir Thomas had great difficulty in recognising the one he got from Europe. Religious scruples, then as now, operated to prevent his eating at the same board with the Muslem nobles of the court, but a curious ceremony of eating bread and salt was gone through between him and one of the grandees in token of a lasting friendship laid between them from that day forward. The second of September being the anniversary of Jahangir's birthday, a levee was held in the palace with much pomp and show, in which elephants richly caparisoned did obeisance to His Majesty by touching the ground with their huge heads. On this occasion he was " weighed against some jewels, gold, silver, stuffs of gold and silver, silk, butter, rice, fruit, and many other things of every sort a little, which is given to the Brahmans." The chains and scales were made of massive gold, the edges of the latter being set with rubies and other precious stones. The King came in gorgeously decked out in ' barbaric pearl and gold,' and took his seat in one of the scales. He was first weighed against bags of silver, and His Majesty was not by any means a feather weight, for it took nine thousand

rupees to keep the crossbeam in a horizontal position 11 The bags of rupees were then replaced by bags of what were said to be gold and jewels, but the Englishman is rather sceptically inclined on this point, for he "saw none; it being in bags might be pebbles." These were again changed for "cloth of gold, silk, stuffs, linen, spices, and all sorts of goods." Lastly "meal, butter, and corn were substituted;" these were subsequently given away to Banyans (Brahmans?). At night the King called for the poor people, and distributed the silver among them. After the weighing was completed, he ascended the throne, and had "basins of nuts, almonds, fruits, spices of all sorts made in thin silver, which he cast about, and his great men scrambled prostrate upon their bellies." Seeing that Sir Thomas did not join in the *meter*, he reached him one basinful, and poured it on his cloak, but the greediness and boldness of the courtiers left him little by way of his share, for although he managed to save several thousands of pieces, they were so thin that the whole quantity, did not weigh twenty rupees. This he retained "to show the ostentation, for by my proportion he could not that day cast away above one hundred pounds sterling."

An exhibition of his impatient childishness was manifested rather strongly by an incident which occurred that very night. The English ambassador had scarcely retired for the night when word was sent to him that the King wanted to see him urgently. On entering the royal presence he was told by His Majesty that he had heard the great traveller had a picture with him which he very much wanted to see. On its being shown to him, he took such a fancy to it that he expressed a wish to keep it. Being the likeness of a deceased lady friend of Sir Thomas (probably that of his wife or some near relative), the latter, "who esteemed it more than anything he possessed," was reluctant to part with it; but the importunities of the Emperor could not be withstood, and when at last his wish was gratified he replied "that he would not take it, that he loved me the better for loving the remembrance of my friend, and knew what an injury it was to take it from me; by no means he would not keep it, but only take copies, and with his own hand he would return it, and his wives should wear them: for indeed in the art of limning his painters work miracles." The day wound up with a drunken bout, in which the Englishman was offered wine in a cup of gold set with rubies, The contents of it were so strong that it made him sneeze, at which the Emperor and his court burst into roars of laughter. Here is an instance of "wisdom and patience in a father, faith in a servant, falsehood in a brother, impudent boldness in a faction that dare attempt anything, when the highest' majesty gives them liberty either beyond the law of their condition or the limits of policy and reason." A faction composed of Prince Caroline, Queen Asap h Khan the well-known intriguer, and Et man Downcut, compassed the death of the king's eldest son, Sultan whom they wished to get into their clutches in order to administer to him poison. Taking advantage of a drunken moment of his father, they persuaded him to give an order on one Anna Rah, who had custody of the prince's person, to make him over to them under the pretence that he would naturally prefer his brother's company. The Gentile, however, divined their object and refused to part with his charge until the next day, when he laid bare their purpose before Jahangir, who changed his mind and recalled his orders. But this state of things did not last long, for in a short time the eldest son was made over to the keeping of Asap h Khan amidst the grumbings of the nobility, the tears and execrations of his sisters and other ladies of the royal household, and the rage of the common people. A few nights after, six ruffians were sent to murder the prince, but the porter refused them the keys of the prison. The king's heart melted at this, and he soon availed himself of a slight pretext to give Asap h Khan a good rating for not having treated his charge with the reverence due to his rank. About this time Ma homed Beg, ambassador from Shah Abbas King of Persia, came over to India with the avowed object of seeking peace for the people of Deccan, against whom the Mogul was preparing to take the field; but in reality asking succour of money against the Turks. After the mutual interchange of presents and civilities, the

Emperor gave a present of Rs. 25,000 to the Persian ambassador. He seems to have repented him of his generosity, for he shortly after hit upon an expedient for repaying himself the amount. It was customary in the reign of this monarch for the nobility to get drunk only by permission of the king. One day it was brought to his notice that several of his courtiers had been seen in a state of insobriety, and a happy thought struck him. Although he had himself on that occasion freely indulged in liquor and had given them license to go and do likewise, he pretended not to have done so ; and the result was that every one of the grandees who was suspected of drunkenness was arraigned before the bar of His Majesty, Some were fined "one, some two, some three thousand rupees, some less, and some that were near his person he caused to be whipped before him, receiving one hundred and thirty stripes with a most terrible instrument, having at each end four cords, irons like spur rowels, so that every stroke made four wounds. When they lay for dead on the ground, he commanded the standers-by to foot them, and after the porters to break their staves upon them. Thus most cruelly mangled and bruised they were carried out, of which one died in the place." Sir Thomas' curiosity about the ladies of the royal household was once satisfied by a glance which he had of two of the king's principal wives who had approached within an inconvenient distance of the dur bar. The light from the pearls and diamonds they wore sufficed to show their outlines, the colour of their hair and their complexion.

Before undertaking a journey it was customary for His Majesty to go through a ceremony presaging good fortune. A huge carp was brought to his presence, followed by a dish of starch, into which he put his finger and rubbed it on the forehead of the fish. An affray which took place between two Englishmen and seven Portuguese is thus humorously described: "Five of the latter set on an English boy in Cambodia, and disarming him ; upon rumours whereof John Browne and James Pickford went to his rescue, and were assailed by seven of them. One shooting a pistol hurt Browne in the hand, but his heart lay not there ; they defended themselves bravely, honestly like Englishmen, killed one, hurt some others, and chased them up and down the town like beasts to the great shame of such villains and reputation of our nation." Matters took rather a serious turn, and there would have occurred some more deaths, but for the timely interference of the governor, who expelled the Portuguese and took the English under his protection. Indian princes and their neighbours used to send each other presents, not only of pearls and rubies, horses and elephants, but of men's heads also. Sir Thomas Roe in his progress through the country " overtook on the way a camel with three hundred men's heads sent from Kandahar by the governor in present to the king, that were out in rebellion." On one occasion the English ambassador found the king seated on his throne with a beggar at his feet "a poor silly old man, all ashed, ragged and patched, with a young rogue attending on him. With these kind of professed poor holy men the country abounds, and are held in great reverence, but for works of chastisement of their body and voluntary sufferings they exceed the brags of all heretics or idolaters. This miserable wretch clothed in rags, crowned with feathers, covered with ashes, His Majesty talked with about an hour, with such familiarity and show of kindness that it must needs argue an humility not found easily among kings. The beggar sat, which his son dare not do; he gave the King a presentâ€"a cake, ashed burnt on the coals, made by himself of coarse grain, which the King accepted most willingly, and broke one bit and ate it, which a dainty mouth could scarce have done."

A story which Sir Thomas heard during his stay in court is quite characteristic of the cruelty and injustice of these savage rulers. One of the Gentile Kings of Maud having accidentally fallen into the river Septa in a state of drunkenness, a slave that was close by

dived after him and saved His Majesty from a watery grave. On being asked to reward the domestic, he enquired why he dared to lay his hands on the royal head and ordered them to be struck off. Shortly after he slipped once more into the river, but this time it was while in the company of the queen; on coming out of the water he questioned his spouse as to why she remained a passive spectator of his misfortune; she replied, that she was not sure whether she would have her hands cut off or not. Jahangir, in common with the generality of Eastern monarchs, was susceptible of being swayed by suspicious emotions on the paltriest of occasions. Among the presents intended for him was a picture of Venus leading a Satyr by the nose. It excited his fancy a good deal, and he asked his courtiers to divine its moral. Each of them put his own interpretation on it, but he was evidently dissatisfied with their explanation, and adopted the precaution of commanding the interpreter not to divulge the drift of their conversation to the Englishman. However, disguise it as he would, his gestures and outward feelings betrayed his inward thoughts, which were that the Satyr was meant to represent an Asiatic being led into captivity by a white woman. Sir Thomas caps the relation of this occurrence with the following shrewd observe- :â€"This I repeat for instruction, to warn the Company and him that shall succeed me to be very wary what they send, may be subject to ill-interpretation : for in that point this King and people are very pregnant and scrupulous, full of jealousy and tricks." Prince Carotene was a bitter enemy of the English embassy, and unsparing in his endeavours to put every manner of obstacle in the way of Sir Thomas Roe obtaining from his father certain privileges for the British residents and factors of Surat. That his father was a puppet in his hands will appear from the following. Before the presents for the King reached the palace, they had to pass through the dominions of the Prince, who levied a black-mail on them, and appropriated some of the packages to his own use. On Sir Thomas bringing to the notice of the father the conduct of his son, he merely laughed and said that he would send immediate orders to his son to desist from molesting the caravan, and that "the Prince, and he were all one." But his assurances went for nothing. The latter was exasperated at the conduct of the foreigner, and told his father that the Englishâ€ purposed taking Surat in the following year. To add to their embarrassments, an incident occurred which gave a colour to this plausible story. An ordinary brawl having taken place among some of the factory people, a hundred sailors from the vessels lying in the harbour were despatched towards Surat. These, out of mere 'lark,' gave out on the way that they were going to take the town. But its impracticability is thus exposed by Sir Thomas Roe "This absurd bravado for a handful of men to pass twelve miles to a walled town, able to put out a thousand horse armed, and as many shot, a river to pass, which a few men would descend against a good army, gave just occasion of scorn and offence."

The officers of the Great Mogul to whom the revenue of the various districts was farmed, did not exercise much discretion in the choice of means for compelling payment of illegal ceases exacted from the 'Naturals' (meaning thereby cultivators or rorts, we presume) by "ordinarily hanging them by their heels to confess money, or to ransom themselves from no fault," and were consequently very loath to allow the King to come to a knowledge of these nefarious practices. Whenever he chose, Jahangir could condescend to be the meanest of the mean in his dealings with strangers, for about this time one an Armenian gentleman of great respectability attached to the Persian embassy, communicated to Sir Thomas Roe that the representative of Shah Abbas was unceremoniously dismissed by the King for a supposed insult offered to His Majesty. It appears that the ambassador had made a present of thirty five horses to the King just before his departure, for which he was paid three thousand rupees. Having expressed his astonishment at such an inadequate return, he incurred the King's displeasure, who valued all that the former had given at unprecedented low rates, while he put high prices on the things which he had given to the Persian, "even to the slaves, drink, melons, pines, plantains, hawks, plums, and elephants;" the bill for these he pleaded as a set-off against the other, and combining in

his own person the judge, jury, advocate and witness, it is not surprising that the verdict was against the opposite party, who had ultimately to "make up the balance in money." Over and above the trials and troubles of the Englishman at the bands of royalty and his myrmidons, his patience was further taxed by the depredations committed in the quarters assigned him for his residence by a lion and wolf, which kept up a constant, feast upon his goats and sheep. His servant made short work of the wolf, but as the lions were under the King's immediate protection, previous permission was necessary before any hostile steps could be adopted against the king of the forest. This was granted, but not before a little "Island dog" was carried away from under the very nose of its master.

The spirit of free trade did not pervade the court of Jahangir and personally he had peculiar ideas on the subject. A complaint having been made to him against certain parties who had purchased goods from the English, but had not discharged their liabilities, he gave the foreigners distinctly to understand that he would, in this instance assist them in recovering their just dues, but in future, if they failed to conform to his orders, he would not be answerable for the debts of his subjects. His instructions were, that an inventory of the commodities intended for sale should be first submitted to him; after making his choice, the rest of the goods would be offered to the public; that an officer of the court would register the names of the purchasers, while another would appraise the goods; and lastly, that unless these requisitions were complied with he could not undertake to have their claims satisfied. The law of creditor and debtor, however, seems not to have been very accurately defined, and the mode of serving a process of the court was quite in keeping with the other barbarous characteristics of the times and was accompanied with heavy costs, though not strictly in accordance with equity or good conscience. No notice having been taken by the debtors of the first call for payment, the or head of the police, was entrusted to carry out the King's commands. This worthy limb of the law surprised the delinquents at midnight in their tents, and having caught some of them, the principal debtor was sent to jail at once, and the next in importance was given three days' liberty to satisfy his creditors. As the amount was only forty four thousand rupees, it was expected to be paid within ten days. Although Sir Thomas Roe had been in the country for two years, and had learned by sad experience the easiest and the shortest way of securing the liberty to trade and other privileges for his countrymen, he resisted to the last the importunities of the courtiers to gain over to his side the father-in-law of the King. Failing in his endeavours, and not until he discovered that all the avenues to royal favour were closed against him, did he condescend to enlist the services of Asaph Khan, the greatest intriguer and the most barefaced timeserver that ever disgraced an Eastern despot's court, by the bribe of a valuable pearl. The sudden change in his bearing was manifested by an abject obsequiousness towards the Englishman; and he was unremitting in his solicitations to the Prince, at times even playing on his fears, to expedite the grant of the Firman which had been two years in preparation! Ladies were then, as now, costly necessaries of life, and the wife of one of the officials was the cause of some anxiety to the Englishman. It appears that she was extravagantly inclined, but who were her tailors and milliners we are not told. It is, however, evident that she was neither useful nor ornamental. Sir Thomas Roe blandly says—"For his wife, I dealt with him clearly, she could not stay with our safety nor his master's content; that he (the husband) had ruined his fortunes, if by amends he repaired it not; that she should not travel nor live on the Company's purse. I know the charge of women, that if he were content to live himself like a merchant, as others did frugally, and to be ordered for the Company's service, and to send home his wife, he was welcome: otherwise I must take a course with both against my nature. Having to this persuaded him, I likewise practised the discouragement of Captain about his wife, (you know not the danger, the trouble, the inconvenience of granting these liberties) to effect this I persuaded Abraham, his father-in-law to hold fast."

The employ's of the East India Company although working avowedly for the interests of their masters did not scruple to feather their own nests at the expense of the former. Sir Thomas Roe in, citing certain cases that came under his notice naively adds :â€" "You discourage all your old servants, some may do all things for fair words, some nothing for good actions: I could instance some gone home two years since, that only employed their own stock, did no other business and live now at home in their pleasure, others that raise their fortune upon your moneys from port to port." There were no definite rules for regulating the internal economy of crowded jails in India in the beginning of the seventeenth century; and Jahangir made short work of the men that were incarcerated in them whether as criminals or as civil prisoners. "The King, when his prisons were full of condemned men, some he commands to be executed, some he sends to his Amos to redeem at a price; this he esteems as a courtesy to give means to exercise charity; but he takes the money and so sells the virtue." On one occasion three Abbas sines (whom the Mosley consider Christians) were sent to Sir Thomas to be sold as slaves at forty rupees each ; but the humane Englishman paid sixty rupees in all for the lot and gave them their liberty. Shortly after this occurrence, two Englishmen named Sprigged and Howard got into trouble on the barest suspicion. It appears that the had called at their residence, and having indulged in drink along with his men, one of the latter died suddenly, upon which the foreigners were accused of poisoning and without even the show of a trial were cast into prison, their house and property being confiscated. On information sent to Sir Thomas of their lives being in danger, he lost no time in repairing to the court at once, and after three days' toil obtained an order for their release with this admonition to the "that if the Moore came into their Sprigged and Howard's) house to drink, if they killed him with a dagger, he had his just reward,"

The journal of Sir. Thomas Roe here comes to an abrupt termination. The next Englishman of note that paid a visit to India accredited with authority by the East India Company was Dr. John Fryer. This was in the year A. D. 1672 when the 'merry monarch' reigned in England. The English and the French were at this time in open war with the Dutch, and it was necessary that a convoy of men-of-war should escort the East India men to their destination, or as far down the Atlantic Ocean as was consistent with their safety, especially now that the Hollanders were in temporary possession of the Island of St. Helena. Our traveller met with very heavy weather beyond the English Channel, and he thus accounts for the 'mountain' seas in the 'sleepless Bay of Biscay: "What makes these seas in such a turmoil is imputed to the falling in of the whole force of the Western Ocean into this Sinus without any impediment, till it recoil against its shores; so that in the calmest season here are always high-swalling billows." The fleet soon fell in with the Trade Winds, which for mariners "has yet this inconvenience, giving them leave now to fall into those distempers idleness contracts, Wis-, 'the scurvy, and other ill habits; unless roused by an active commander either to sports or to more useful employments." At the Island of St. Iago, one of the Cape Verde group, some trade was done with the natives, who crowded to the shore and fearlessly mixed with the Europeans, bartering coco es, oranges, limes, "all at the price of a cleanly rag or a bunch of ribbons." It was here that Dr. Fryer for the first time enjoyed the luxury of a primitive Hubble-bubble, which is thus described: â€" "A long reed as brown as a nut with use, inserted in the body of a coco e-shell filled with water and a nasty bole just pressing the water, they ram tobacco in it uncut, out of which we make suck as long as we please, but for anything tell us as the poet did. Via mi hi non aunt chis, Queue palmate miss a bib as." A curious disease termed broke out among the crew when the fleet had passed the equator, and which thinned their ranks. It was " a malignant fever with a frenzy, so that, if not watched, the patients leap into the sea." Those who survived the attack and were in a state of convalescence, were sent ashore when the ships arrived at the Island of Johanna, which they reached after a tempestuous voyage round the Cape of Good Hope. A change for. the better in the health of the men was effected in an

incredibly short space of time "by feeding on oranges and fresh limes, and the very smell of the earth." Those whose case was considered desperate and who were carried to land in cradles, could take up their beds and walk in the course of twenty-four hours. The only precaution taken was to fetch them on board before nightfall, "that the misty vapours might not hinder the kind operation begun on their tainted mass of blood by these specific medicines of nature's own preparing." The inhabitants of Johanna, although Muhammadans, were like their prototypes on the coast of Africa, slaves to fetishism. One day while Dr. Fryer was walking in the country admiring its beauty, he happened to enter a house; here he saw a man "writing with a pen made of cane, in the bottom of a bowl besmeared over with black; considering awhile, at length I observed he made Arabian characters and aimed to draw a scheme, which when he had done, he poured water upon, and stirring it round with his finger, wiped it out again, and as he did this, muttered seriously to himself, doing it thrice. I watched what he intended, and found that a woman lay sick there, and this charm was her physic."

They had schools for educating their youth in Arabic, with the ultimate object of teaching them to read the Koran. In their places of instruction they were taught to write "by bundles of characters tied together to ape printing." What they made their impression upon our informant does not say, but paper was "not a despicable commodity among them." Although flesh was quite common in the island, the usual diet of the people were the fruits of the earth. The way in which they killed fowls is thus described: "Pulling first their feathers off to the wings, they by degrees raise the skin, after which torture they as slowly cut their throats, till they have finished a short litany, which is the priest's office, if at hand; otherwise the good man of the house says grace." Speaking of the cattle sometimes used as food by the inhabitants, he observes that the oxen were not as large as those to be found in "Wales, "yet have this peculiarity, a bunch of fat between their shoulders, which, eaten, tastes like marrow." On reaching the treasure sent out from England was landed on shore, and Dr. Fryer paid the town a visit. It was then under the occupation of the Moors. The way they contrived to obtain possession of the country from the Gentoo s was this. The latter were distinguished by their different callings, and a member of a superior profession would neither marry nor associate with one of an inferior position in the guild. This consequently led to great discontent through the length and breadth of the land. The Brahmans, and next to them the or soldiers, lorded over the rest of the population and treated them with contumely. The artificers, through whom the disaffection permeated to the other bodies of the community, called in the aid of the Moors, and thereby compassed not only the ruin of their enemies, but indirectly involved their own slavery, for no sooner was the Moorish General once safely ensconced on the throne than his real character developed itself. Instead of treating those by whose instrumentality he was raised to his present position with any degree of consideration, he treated all alike, and by constant demands on their purse squeezed them to penury.

The English factors at used to keep great state, and were well attended both at home and on occasions of ceremonious visits to the governor of the place, or other functionaries; but they had to exercise great caution in the preparation of their food, which was served up in plates of China. The Anglo Indians of the seventeenth century shared in the belief current in some parts of India to the present day, that a peculiar composition of China when brought in contact with poison of any description cracks, and thus betrays the nature of the food. During the second occupation of Lucknow by our troops in 1858, a large quantity of these wares were destroyed in the royal palace. It is said that the king lived in such a wholesome terror of foul play that he never took his meals but out of these vessels. Whatever truth there may be in these popular beliefs, says Dr. Fryer, "since it (poisoning) is so much practised in this country by way of revenge, it is a necessary caution, by all means, to avoid." The modes in which the Moors executed justice on culprits were similar

to those which prevail in other parts of the East. In capital cases the sentence was carried out suddenly, either by impaling them on stakes, or by cutting them in pieces, "which for murder is always begun by the nearest relation, who must be both prosecutor and executioner," assisted by the rabble which usually collect on such occasions. But the way in which the nobles of the land were punished was singular in the extreme. When one of them was adjudged an offender he was sent to a place called "Port," and made over to the tender mercies of the master of the Port, who first made him drink largely of a mixture of *bhang* and *Tatura*. This made him raving mad. In this state he was let loose in a splendid garden, there to make choice of the company of "apes and cats, dogs and monkeys," who were his only attendants and over whom he exercised his "humour of an assassin, usurper, miser, or what his genius led him to, whilst himself." He was thus kept incarcerated "during the pleasure of the king or he order his cure, to restore him to his senses again." Bugs and mosquitoes were the plagues of the foreigners then as now, but net curtains and *punk has* were unknown, for we are told that "to arm themselves against this plague those that live here have fine Cali cut lawn thrown over their beds, which though .white as snow when put on shall be in an hour besmeared all over, which might be tolerable, did not their daring buzzes continually alarm, and sometimes more sensibly provoke, though clothed with long breeches to their toes, and mufflers on their hands and face, and a servant to keep them from them with a fan, without which there is no sleeping Chine es stick among the cotton and in rotten posts, whose bi tings wheal most sadly, and if they strive to take a revenge for that abuse, and chance to squeeze them, they leave stink enough to choke them." The Dutch fleet having left the Madras Roads, there was a safe passage for Dr. Fryer, who had the treasure re-shipped and proceeded to Madras. The town was then in the bands of the English, having been made over to them by one of the Nails, or Prince of the Gentoo s, ninety years before the period referred to, and forty years before the Moors possessed themselves of A sum of seven thousand pagodas was yearly paid to the King of Golconda for royalties and customs. Sir William Lang ham, a "gentleman of indefatigable industry and worth," was then the agent of the Company, as well as the superintendent of all the factories on the Coast as far as the Googly river. He was assisted in the government of the country by a court presided over by judiciaries, who exercised jurisdiction over all the inhabitants of the town with the exception of passing sentence of death-on any of the " King's liege people of England." He had a bodyguard of three or four hundred native soldiers, and "a band of fifteen hundred men ready on summons." Of the population 300 were English, and as many thousands Portuguese, who had taken refuge there ten years previously, when the Moors wrested from their hands the Fort of St Thomas. This latter was a city second in importance to none in India for riches and luxury, and had been the theatre of a conflict between the French, the Dutch, and the Moors, engaged in a death-struggle for the mastery of Southern India. Here it was that Dr. Fryer saw a tribe of people every one of whom was suffering from elephantiasis in one of the legs, which phenomenon was ascribed by the superstitious Portuguese to a visitation of Providence for the sins of their ancestors who had murdered ' the blessed Apostle St. Thomas.' Elsewhere he ascribes other reasons for this unnatural appearance in a whole community; (1) "by the venom of a certain snake, for which the jaggies or pilgrims furnish them with a fictitious stone (which we call a snake-stone) and is a counter poison to all deadly bites ; if it stick, it attracts the poison; and put it into milk, it recovers itself again, leaving its virulence therein, discovered by its greenness ;" (2) "by drinking bad water (to which, as we to the air, they attribute all diseases) when they travel over the sands, and then lying down when they are hot, till the earth at night is in a cold sweat, which penetrating the cuticle, fixes the humours by intercepting their free concourse on that side; not to be remedied by any panacea of their Aesculapian spectators."

Of the great Ruth at Driblet four miles north of Madras he speaks thus :â€" To this mother pa god at certain seasons of the year long pilgrimages are set on foot, at what time

there is an innumerable concourse, whereat some of the visitants count it meritorious to be trod to death under a weighty chariot of iron made for the carriage of their deities, and with themselves lay their wives and children to undergo the self-martyrdom." On the 1st of September 1673 a naval engagement took place between the Dutch and the English off the Bay of between and Madras, in which the odds were greatly in favour of the former. The English might have avoided them if they chose, but preferring "to lye a battery for them than cowardly to flinch," intercepted the enemy's fleet, and regardless of the authority of the general, drew up in line-of-battle array. The first British vessel that suffered was the *Bomb aim*, which bore off with eighty shots in her hull and was never more seen above water. Vice-Admiral Captain Hide of the *President* was taken prisoner after being wounded, and the *Sampson* was captured, but not till Rear-Admiral Captain Ernie had been killed. But the hero of the day was the gallant Commander Goldberg of the *Antelope*, who fought to the last, and when he could no longer maintain his position, he sank the vessel rather than see it taken to Batavia. He and some of his men were however saved. The French were at hand and might have assisted the English, but the latter disdained to ask any help from them. Dr. Fryer, in Instituting a comparison between the policy of the East India Company and that of the Dutch in this country, expresses himself unfavourably of his countrymen. The latter, "as they gain ground, secure it by vast expenses, raising forts and maintaining soldiers. Ours are for raising auctions, and retrenching charges; bidding the next age grow rich as they have done, but not affording them the means who are for the present profit, not future emolument." Neither *husk-khus tatties*, nor ice, that indispensable necessary in a tropical climate, were known in those days, and the methods devised to keep the room and liquor cool were of a primitive type. The excessive heat of the weather was repelled " by a coarse wet cloth, continually hanging before their chamber windows; which riot only resists the ambient air, but by the flux of nitrous particles from within does cast a chilliness over the room; without which, the walls that for that intent are plastered, would be so hot, you could not abide your had on them ; the same way they of cooling their liquors, by a wet cloth wrapped about their gurgle and jars, which are vessels made of a porous kind of earth ; the best of Mesa, reasonable good from Goa, which are married with them in this nature wherever they travel."

Cali cut was once the most flourishing mart on the Malabar Coast, but with the departure of the Portuguese to Goa its glory departed. The power and greatness of this people were all owing to the trade they carried on with this port. When they first visited it, upwards of 500 vessels carried the exports periodically all along the coasts of the Red Sea aid the Persian Gulf overland to Aleppo or Constantinople, and thence to Venice, from which place the goods were sent to other parts of Europe, but after the passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope became the great highway of commerce, the overland trade declined for obvious reasons. Added to this, the jealousy of the (head of the clergy,) who ruined the Portuguese fortifications, compelled them to migrate to Goa. The rivers in this part of the country swarmed with alligators, and the jungles were infested by tigers, but our traveller was told they committed no ravages either on human beings or on cattle, owing, as the natives supposed, to a charm which the Brahmans laid them tinder. The next port visited was Bombay, of which a short history is: appended. After de Gama had rounded the Cape and laid the seas open to traffic, the Portuguese took possession of it, along with the other islands on the coast, till the year 1661, when, on the marriage of Charles II. of England with Donna Infants. Catherine, sister of the reigning King of Portugal, they were made over to the English as a portion of her dower. Even at that time Bombay was considered to be the key of the East Indies, not only as regarded the protection it afforded to ships trading with the country, and facilities for commerce, but also for keeping in check those who disturbed our trade. The Government of James II sent out a fleet of five royal ships with a viceroy on board, under the command of Lord Mulberry, to take possession of the settlements in the name of the British nation, but the Portuguese governor and his

advisers taking advantage of the distance of the mother country from India, and treating these ports as their own property, and consequently at their disposal, refused to allow the viceroy to land. Lord Mulberry perceiving his critical position changed his tactics, landing 500 men with Sir Abraham Shipman on the barren and inhospitable shore of S wally near Surat. The sight of the troops and the manoeuvres they went through after the European fashion so awed the Moors, that t ha

English governor of the latter place begged of them to disembark, failing which the factory would fall a sacrifice to the Moors. Lord Mulberry next landed his men at an unhealthy and uninhabited island. After a little parleying, the Portuguese consented to evacuate Bombay and the Bay in favour of the English upon condition that the " Royalties" should to the new arrivals, but "every particular man's estate to the right owner, and the liberty of their own ceremonies in religion, upon their oath of allegiance." In the meantime Sir Abraham Shipman and 300 of his troops succumbed to the influence of the noxious climate, the violence of the rains, against which they provided no protection, but mainly to their intemperate ways of living. Mr. Cook was then sent to succeed him, and in A.D.1664 to Bombay with the men that were left. They found the place scantily provided with the means of defence; for the former occupants, having been enervated by a long residence in a warm climate, abounding with wealth and undisturbed by war, had declined in manly virtues, and had given themselves up to pleasure and its concomitant evils, lust, rapine and riot. The only relic of their ancient worth was represented by four brass guns, an ill-fortified house, and a few chambers in small towers which were used for driving away the natives who paid periodical visits to these settlements, carrying 6 re and sword to the villages, destroying those who offered opposition and dragging the rest into eternal and intolerable captivity. Mr. Commandant Cook was the first governor of Bombay, but owing to some malpractices was replaced by Sir Dervish King from England. This able administrator, who promised to settle the affairs of the Company, died on the passage out. Captain Gary succeeded him, but he too was displaced for playing into the hands of the commanders of Her Majesty's ships, to whom he rendered accounts, and not to the King. In this emergency the government was entrusted to the keeping of the respectable merchants of the island. The interests of the military, however, being opposed to those of the merchants, there was consequently an interruption of good feeling between them, and with it a corresponding loss to the Company, Sir George Oxen dine was the first governor under the new constitution. As it was necessary for the interests of his employers that he should remain at Surat, he appointed Mr. Goodyear his deputy at Bombay. Sir George having shortly after " finished his days, together with his presidency at Surat," Goodyear hastened thither in hopes of advancing his future, but his avarice cost him his former post as well as that which he now coveted. An interregnum followed, and a body of merchants, five in number, constituted themselves the government until the appointment of the Hobble Gerald Bungler to the office of president He was obliged to change his deputies pretty often for one reason or another, and lastly, owing to the insolence of the governors of Surat, and fearing fresh troubles in Bombay, came over there in 1671, after narrowly escaping shipwreck, and undertook the personal management of the island. But such a change had, ii the meantime, been effected in strengthening the defences of the place, that when the Dutch attempted to descend upon it in the spring of the same year, they found it so strong that they were glad to escape without striking a blow. During the early period of our occupation of the fort, the residents were put to great straits for want of water. Rain water was generally collected in tanks and as the quantity thus preserved was generally consumed before the next monsoon, they had to dig wells j but their contents were generally brackish, and those who could afford had it brought all the way from Mazarin).

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