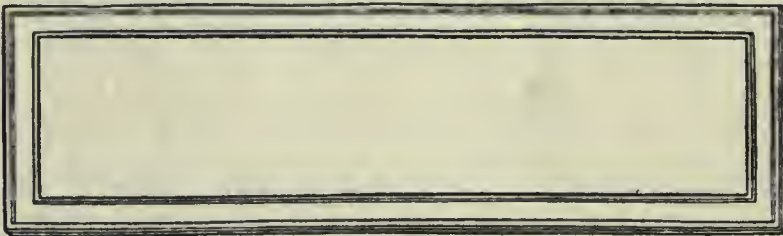


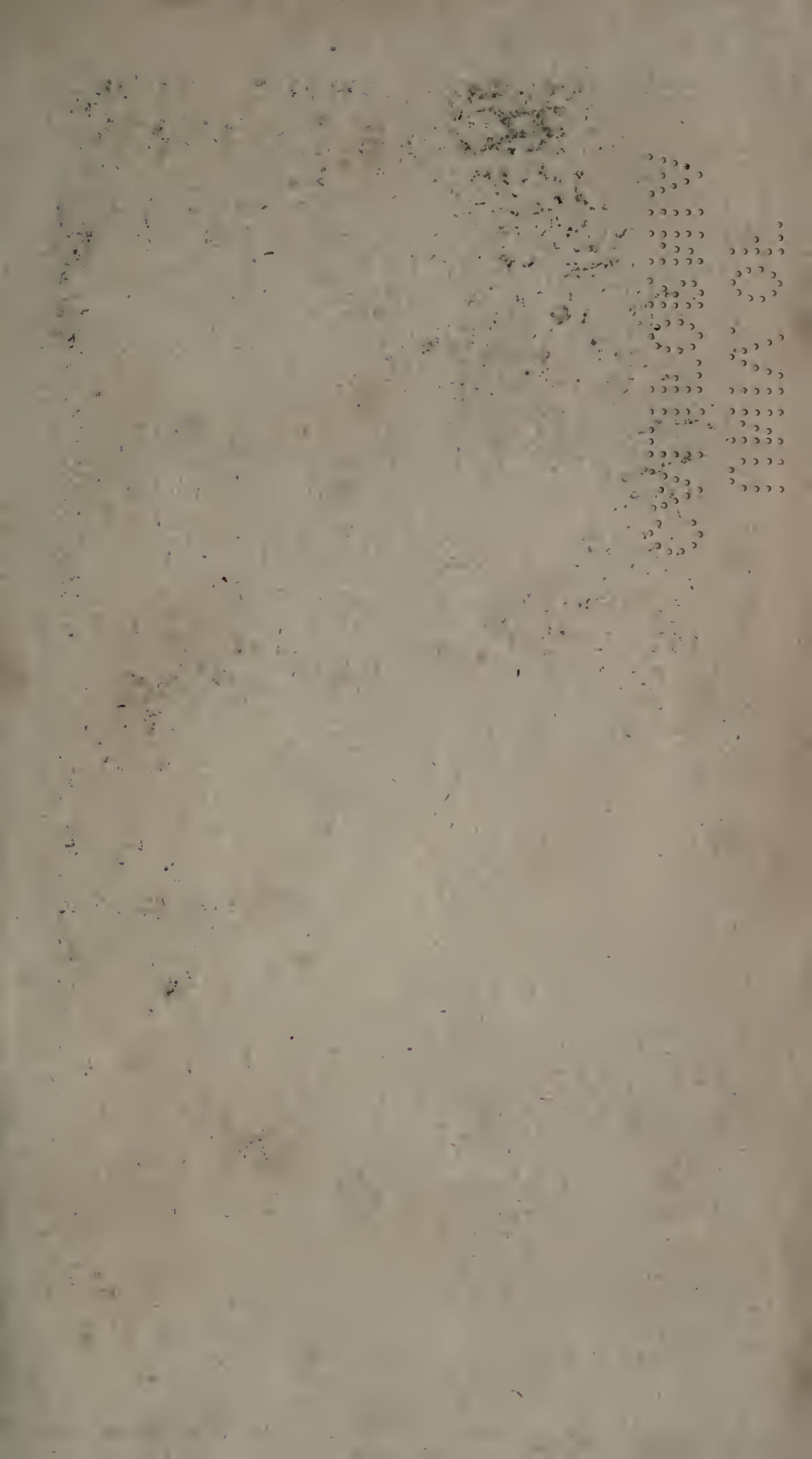
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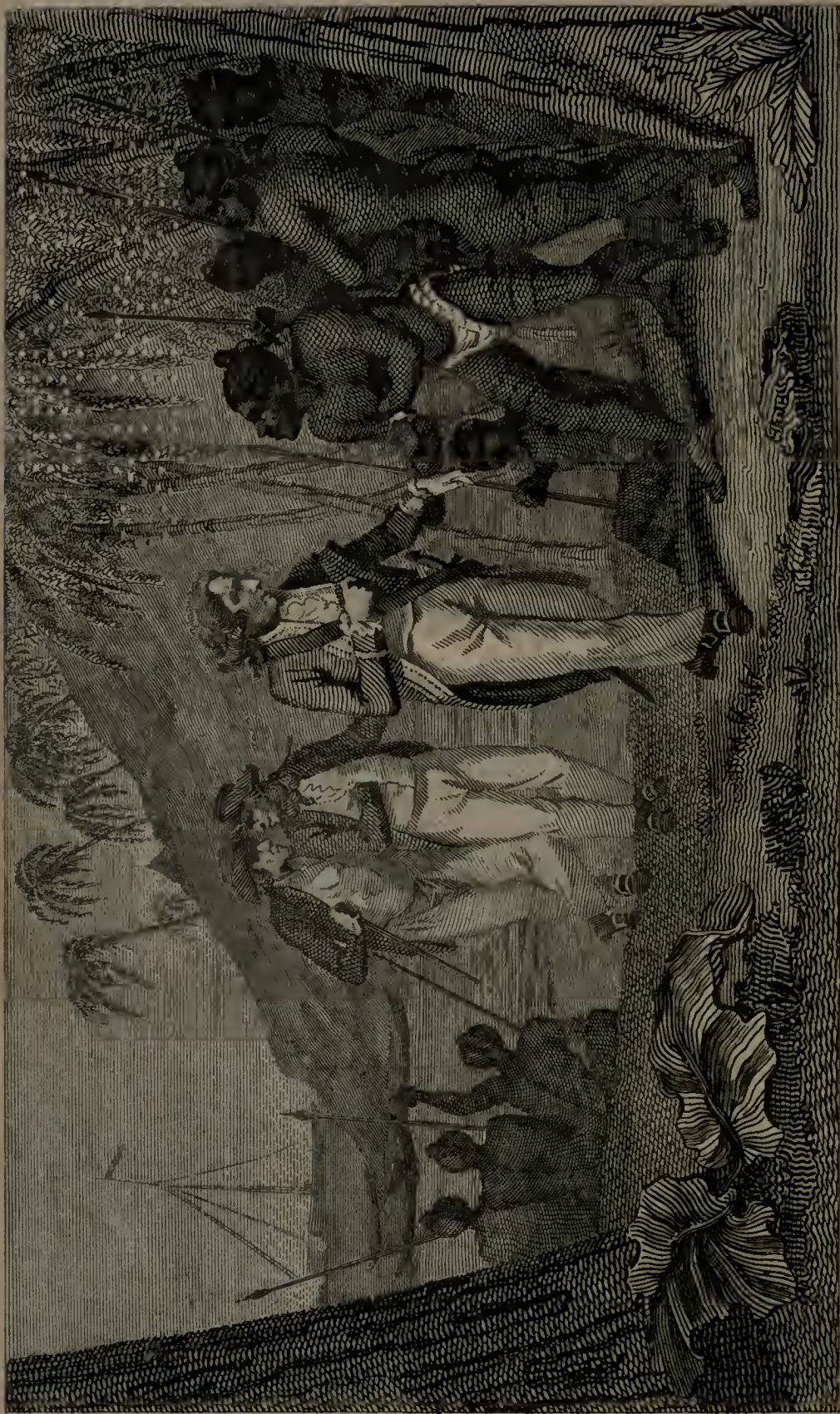


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Cap. Wilson invested with the Order of the Bone.

Mary Jepsack's Pelew 1792
NARRATIVE *1800*

OF THE
SHIPWRECK
OF THE
ANTELOPE
EAST-INDIA PACQUET,

ON THE
PELEW ISLANDS, situated on the Western Part of the
PACIFIC OCEAN;

In AUGUST, 1783.

P E R T H:

Printed by R. Morison, Junr.

FOR R. MORISON AND SON, PERTH; AND SOLD BY S.
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HOUSE, STRAND, LONDON.

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REPERATIVE

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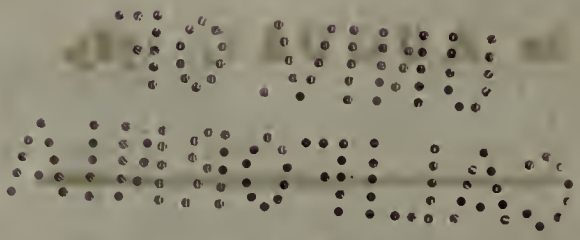
ANTHONY

EAST-INDIA FACQUET

ON THE

THE HISTORY OF THE EAST-INDIA FACQUET

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P R E F A C E.

NO subject can be more interesting to man, than the history of man; and no method can be more proper for investigating this subject, than examining the different appearances which he assumes in different quarters of the globe. History does not offer an example of such disinterested efforts, towards the enlargement of human knowledge, as have been made by the British nation, since the accession of his present Majesty to the throne—the noble and hazardous enterprizes undertaken and executed under his auspices, will remain to succeeding ages, a monument

a of

of the zeal and patronage of GEORGE
THE THIRD.

If to bring to view a part of our Brethren of Mankind hitherto unknown—a race of men that do honour to the name of Manhood, be a subject generally interesting, the following pages must ensure a favourable reception. The Public have been often amused with uninteresting histories of voyages and shipwrecks; and fiction and fancy have been tortured to throw into the dish something palatable; it may therefore be necessary to mention a few facts as to the authenticity of a narrative, which arrests the attention with incidents, seldom surpassed in the airy visions of romance.

The

The Antelope was not fitted out for the purpose of adventure or discovery ; it was a pacquet commanded by Captain Henry Wilson, and manned by a number of hands the greater part of whom are now in Britain, and can vouch for the reality of every circumstance. They were wrecked on this almost unknown coast, and after suffering a series of unparalleled hardships, were restored to their country, their home and their friends, by the benevolence of this new race of men.

It is somewhat remarkable that although the islands which gave birth to some of the most important scenes in this work, lie at no very great distance from the common track to China, yet

it does not appear that any Europeans ever landed on them. They were not however totally unknown. In the *Lettres edifiantes et curieuses*, we find an account of this Archipelago, of which the Palos or Pelew Islands constitute the fifth division; the other four consisting of the Islands which are now known by the name of the *New Carolines*. Le Pere Cantora tells us, that being shipwrecked on one of the Caroline Islands, he had used every method to get information concerning the rest; and that he was informed, “ that the people of the Pelew Islands were inhuman and savage; that both men and women were entirely naked, and fed upon human flesh; that the inhabitants of the

Carolines

Carolines looked on them with horror as the enemies of mankind, and with whom they held it dangerous to have any intercourse." From this and any other information that can be procured, it appears that for a long series of years, the inhabitants of the Pelew Islands, have been separated from the rest of mankind, even those most contiguous to themselves. Their ignorance of the existence of white people, abundantly evinces their being total strangers to Europe at any rate.

The name given by the Spaniards to these Islands is the Palos Islands; which indeed is the name by which all the Caroline Islands formerly went; probably owing to the number of tall palm trees

trees with which they are covered, having the appearance of masts of ships at a distance, the Spanish word *palos* signifies a mast.

If therefore this publication tends to introduce a *new people* to the reader, who have, uninformed and untaught as they are, brought their manners to a great degree of civilization; the politician, the moralist, and the friend of humanity, will not consider this an useless work, more especially to those who have not access to peruse Mr Keate's very complete publication on the subject.

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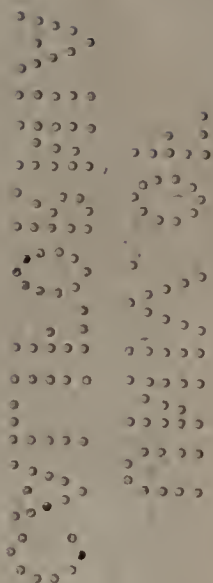
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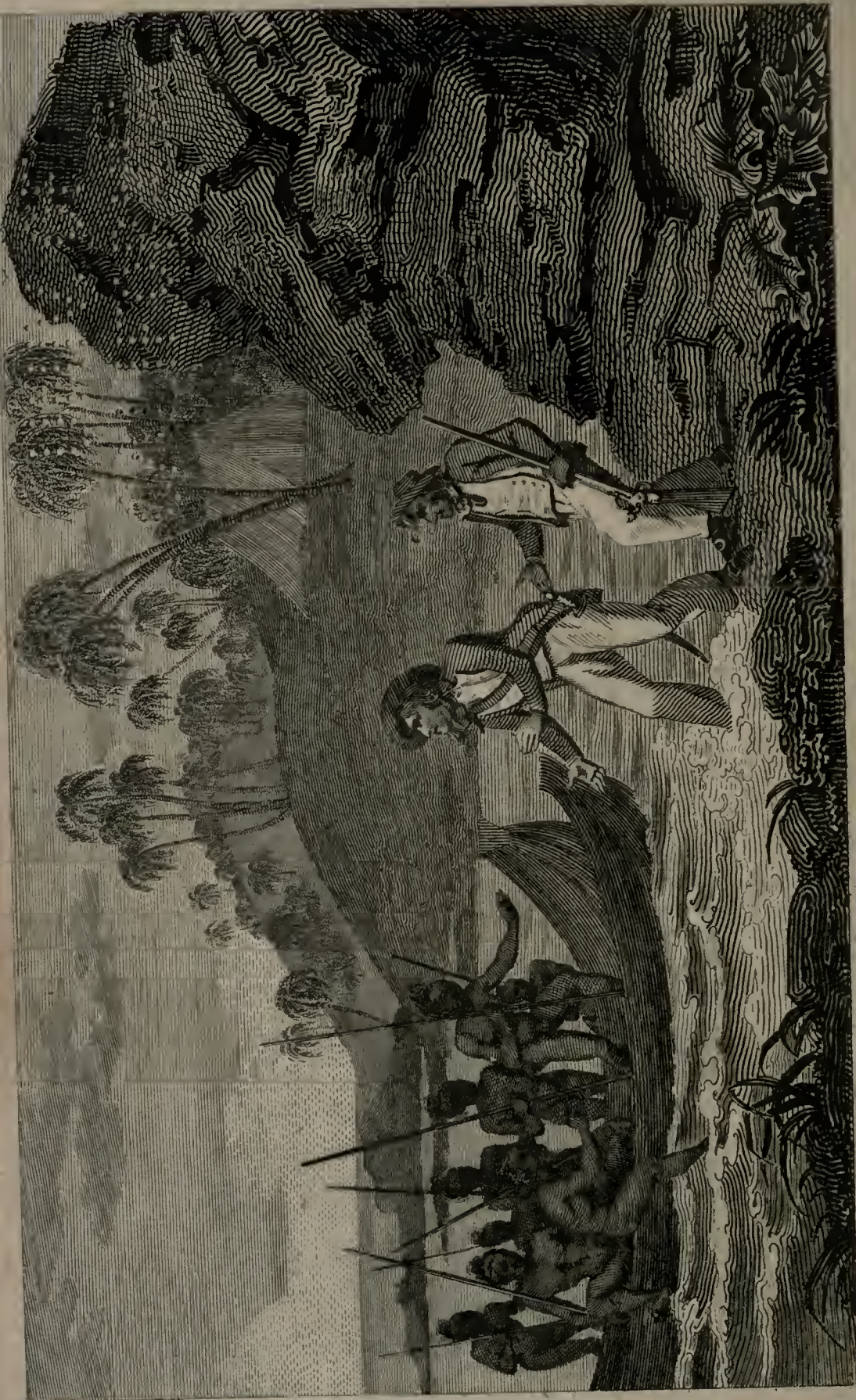
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NARRATIVE





The First Interview of Capt. Wilson & Tom Rose with the Natives of Pelew.

NARRATIVE
OF THE
SHIPWRECK
OF THE
ANTELOPE.

CHAP. I.

The Antelope sails from Macao—List of the Crew—
Distress—Struck on a Rock—Landing—Appear-
ance of Natives—Interview and Transactions between
them—Particulars concerning Raa Cook, Arra Koo-
ker, &c.

CAPTAIN Henry Wilson, of the
Antelope Packet, in the service
of the British East India Company, a-
bout 300 tons burthen, sailed from
Macao, in China, on her passage home-
ward, on Sunday the 20th, July 1783.

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As in the sequel of this narrative, there will be occasion to mention the names of the ship's company at times, the following list of them may be useful.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Stations.</i>
Henry Wilson,	Commander.
Phillip Benger, <i>since dead,</i>	Chief Mate.
Peter Barker,	Second Mate.
John Cunningham,	Third Mate.
John Sharp,	Surgeon.
Arthur William Davis,	Passenger.
John Blanch,	Gunner.
William Harvey,	Boatswain.
John Polkinghorn,	Carpenter.
John Meale,	Cooper and Steward.
Richard Jenkins,	Carpenter's Mate.
James Swift,	Cook.
Richard Sharp,	Midshipman.
Henry Wilson, Junr.	Midshipman, <i>son to</i> <i>the Captain.</i>
John Wedgebrough,	Midshipman.
Robert White,	Midshipman.
Albert Pierson,	Quarter Master.
Godfrey Minks, <i>since dead,</i>	Quarter Master.
Thomas Dutton,	Captain's Steward.
Thomas Rose, a Portuguese,	Linguist.
<i>And,</i> Matthias Wilson, the Captain's brother,	Thomas Wilson,

Wilson, (*since dead*) Dedrick Windler, Zachariah Allen, John Cooper, James Bluit, Thomas Castles, William Roberts, Nicholas Tyacke, William Stewart, Madan Blanchard, Thomas Whitfield, William Cobbledick, and James Duncan, Seamen. Besides these Captain Wilson was allowed sixteen Chinese, to keep the ship's complement of hands complete.

ON Monday the 21st they got clear to sea, having discharged the Pilot, and taken leave of several gentlemen who accompanied them a few leagues. From the 23^d July, to the 8th of August, they had very stormy unsettled weather, infomuch that their foretop-mast sprung, and all their live cattle died. On the 9th the weather became more moderate; so that opening their ports they dried the ship, examined their stores and provisions, and proceeded cheerfully on their voyage, flattering themselves their distress and danger were now fairly past; little judg-

were about to undergo, were so quickly to overtake them.

Early on Sunday morning, the 10th of October, a strong breeze sprung up, attended with much rain, thunder and lightning. Captain Wilson had gone to bed about twelve, and Mr Bengier the chief mate, commanded on deck. While the seamen were busied in reefing the sails, the man on watch exclaimed, *Breakers*, which he had scarce pronounced when the ship struck. It is not easy to express the consternation which ensued; all who were in bed below, were immediately on deck, enquiring the occasion of the noise and confusion: too soon they learned their dismal situation; in less than an hour she bulged, and filled with water up to the lower deck hatchways. During this scene of horror and dismay, the seamen eagerly besought the Captain
to

to direct them, and his orders would be implicitly obeyed.

Captain Wilson's first orders were, to secure the gun-powder and small arms, and to get on deck the bread, and such other provisions as were liable to be spoiled by the water, and cover them with tarpaulins, &c. to keep them from the rain. As the ship took a heel in filling, there was some reason to fear she might overset; to prevent which, they cut away the mizen-mast, the main and fore top-masts, and lowered the fore and main-yards, to ease her. The boats were then hoisted out, and filled with provisions; a compass, and some small arms, with ammunition, and two men, being put into each with directions to keep them under the lee of the ship, and to be ready to receive their ship-mates, in case the vessel should part by the violence of the wind and

waves, as it then blew an exceeding strong gale.

Every thing being now done that prudence could dictate in so trying and distressful a situation, the officers and people assembled on the quarter deck, that part being highest out of the water, and best sheltered from the rain and sea by the quarter-boards; and waited for day-light, in hopes of seeing land, for as yet they had not been able to discern any. During this dreadful interval, the anxiety and horror of which is much easier to be imagined than described, Captain Wilson endeavoured to revive the drooping spirits of his crew, by reminding them, that shipwreck was a misfortune to which navigators were always liable; and that although theirs was rendered more difficult and distressing by its happening in an unknown and unfrequented sea,

yet

yet he wished to remind them that this consideration should only rouse them to greater activity, in endeavouring to extricate themselves: and, above all, he begged leave to impress on their minds this circumstance, that whenever misfortunes, such as theirs, had happened, they had generally been rendered much more dreadful than they would otherwise have been, by the despair of the crew, and by their disagreement among themselves. To prevent which, he most earnestly requested each of them, separately, not to taste any spirituous liquor, on any account whatever; and he had the satisfaction to find a ready consent given to this most important advice.

We have been the more circumstantial in our account of this part of their transactions, because we think it displays, in a most remarkable manner,
the

the presence of mind which was preserved, and the prudence that was exerted by Captain Wilson in one of the most trying situations to which human nature can be exposed. It shews also, in the most unequivocal manner, the temper and disposition of his officers, and the whole crew, and pronounces their eulogium with ten thousand times the force of any words that could be used.

As they were almost worn out by the excessive labour they had undergone, two glasses of wine and some biscuit were given to every man aboard, and they waited for day-break with no little impatience, in hope of discovering land. Meantime they endeavoured to support each others spirits as much as possible, and by the Captain's direction, put on as many clothes as possible to carry with them, in the event of getting
safe

safe from the wreck; and let it not be forgotten, among many other remarkable instances that occurred, in the course of this voyage, to the honour of this crew, that the utmost cordiality prevailed among them; none attempted in the hour of confusion, to touch his neighbour's property, nor to taste the *forbidden* spirits.

The dawn discovered to their view a small island, at the distance of about three or four leagues to the southward; and as the day-light increased, they saw more islands to the eastward. They now began to feel apprehensions on account of the natives, to whose dispositions they were perfect strangers: however, after manning the boats, and loading them in the best manner they were able for the general good, they were dispatched to the small island, under the direction of Mr Benger, the
chief

chief mate, who was earnestly requested to establish, if possible, a friendly intercourse with the natives, if they found any, and carefully to avoid all disagreement with them, unless reduced to it by the most urgent necessity. As soon as the boats were gone, those who were left in the ship began to get the booms over board, and to make a raft for their security, if the ship should go to pieces, which was hourly expected: at the same time they were under the most painful apprehensions for the safety of the boats, on which all depended; not only on account of the natives, but with regard to the weather also, as it continued to blow very hard. But in the afternoon they were relieved from their fears on this head, by the return of the boats, with the welcome news of their having landed the stores in safety, and left five men to take care
of

of them ; and that there was no appearance of inhabitants being on the island where they landed: that they had found a secure harbour, well sheltered from the weather, and also some fresh water. This good account revived them, and they proceeded in completing their raft with fresh vigour, having got another glass of wine with biscuit. A very distressing accident however, happened this day ; the mizen-mast being found near the ship's stern, and part of the rigging entangled with the mizen chains, Godfrey Minks was employed to clear it, and whilst he was doing it, unluckily slipped overboard : the boats were immediately sent to his assistance, but without effect.

Having finished the raft, they loaded it together with the jolly boat and pinnace, with as many stores and provisions as they could bear, consistently
with

with the safety of the people who were to be in them. And as the day was advancing, the Captain summoned all the people aboard; indeed, so busily were they employed in bringing as much as possible with them, it cost some pains to get them all collected. Their feelings on quitting the Antelope, going they knew not whither, were of the most distressing nature. The stoutest of the hands were put aboard the pinnace, which took the raft in tow and moved slowly on, till they had cleared the reef; while the jolly boat, which was of little service to the raft, proceeded alone to the shore, and joined their companions that had been left in the morning. They found a tent ready for their reception, and a spot of ground cleared for the stores &c.

The situation of those aboard the pinnace and the raft, till they cleared
the

the reef, was terrible indeed. The great swelling of the sea was such, that they repeatedly lost sight of each other, and those on the raft were obliged to tie themselves to the planks with ropes to prevent their being washed off; whilst the horror of the scene was increased by the screams of the Chinese, who were not accustomed to the perils of the deep.

When they had fairly cleared the reef, they got into deep smooth water, in the channel running between the reef and the islands; but on approaching the land, they found a very strong current which drove them considerably to leeward. They soon found they could not resist its impetuosity, and therefore having brought the raft to a grapnel, all the hands got aboard the pinnace, to relieve the rowers. Meanwhile, the cargo of the jolly boat being

B

unladen,

unladen, Captain Wilfon, was returning in her, to assist those aboard the pinnace. The night was by this time dark, and the Captain overhearing them at a distance, hailed them. Those aboard the pinnace, overjoyed at the near prospect of relief, returned the halloo, in a manner so unusual, that Captain Wilfon immediately concluded they were natives. He was the readier to form this idea, as he had just learned from those on shore, that from various circumstances they had reason to conclude, there had been natives on that spot very lately; he therefore retreated to shore with the utmost precipitation. Happily, however, they were soon relieved by the arrival of the pinnace, when all the company shook hands together, (need it be added,) with great cordiality. They supped on cheese, biscuit and water, and having lighted a
match

match by the discharge of a pistol, they kindled a fire in the cove, by which they dried their clothes and warmed themselves. The night proved very uncomfortable as the weather was exceedingly tempestuous, while the fear of the ship going to pieces, before they could save such things as they needed, not a little heightened their distress. Lest they should be surpris'd by the natives, they set a watch and slept on the ground by turns.

Next forenoon, (Monday the 11th) proved very stormy, they attempted to bring off the raft in vain, and were obliged to leave it, bringing with them the sails and remainder of the provisions.

In the afternoon, the weather was more moderate and the boats were dispatched to the ship to bring off what they could; while those on shore were

B 2 employed

employed in brushing up the small arms.

The evening set in very squally, and as the boats did not return from the ship till about ten o'clock, those on shore were not a little alarmed about them; nor were they much easier, when on their return they learned, that the vessel was in such a situation, as made it exceedingly probable she could not hold together till morning.—When we consider their situation on this information, it must be granted, that the vicissitudes of human life, have seldom produced a coincidence of circumstances more peculiarly distressing. The only hope they had, of yet floating and repairing the vessel, so as to return to China, now to all appearance, impracticable—ignorant where they were, or among whom—separated not only from wives, children and home, but from
all

all mankind, except perhaps a race of savages, as they naturally supposed—without any prospect of relief—and at the same time shivering under a storm still more tempestuous than the former night, altogether brings to view a situation, which none can think of, even at this distance of time, without commiserating.

In the morning it blew exceedingly strong, so that the boats could not go off to the wreck: the men therefore employed themselves in drying their provisions, and forming better tents, from the materials which they had brought from the ship the day before. About eight o'clock in the morning, the people being employed as above, and in clearing the ground from the wood which was behind the tents, Captain Wilson with Tom Rose, a Malay, whom they had taken on board at

Macao, being on the beach, collecting the fresh water which dropped from the rocks, saw two canoes, with men in them, coming round the point into the bay. This gave such alarm, that the people all ran to their arms; however, as there were but few of the natives, Captain Wilson desired them to keep out of fight, until they should perceive what reception he met with, but to be prepared for the worst. They soon perceived that the natives had seen the Captain and Tom Rose, for they conversed together, and kept their eyes stedfastly fixed on that part of the shore where the English were. The natives advanced very cautiously toward them, and when they came near enough to be heard, the Captain directed Rose to speak to them in his own language; which they at first did not seem to understand; but they stopped their canoes,

noes, and soon after one of them asked, in the Malay tongue, who our people were, and whether they were friends or enemies? Rose was directed to reply, that they were Englishmen, who had lost their ship on the reef, but had saved their lives, and were friends. On this they seemed to confer together for a short time, and then stepped out of the canoes into the water, and went toward the shore. Captain Wilson instantly waded into the water to meet them, and embracing them in the most friendly manner, led them to the shore, and presented them to his officers, and unfortunate companions. They were eight in number, two of whom, it was afterwards known, were brothers to the Rupack, or King, of the neighbouring islands, and one was a Malay, who had been shipwrecked in a vessel belonging to a Chinese, resident on the island of Ternate,

Ternate, one of the same group of islands ; he had been kindly treated by the King, who, he said, was a good man ; and that his people also were courteous. He told them farther, that a canoe having been out fishing, had seen the ship's mast ; and that the King, being informed of it, sent off these two canoes at four o'clock that morning, to see what was become of the people who had belonged to her ; and they knowing of the harbour which the Englishmen were in, had come directly thither.

Being about breakfast hour, Captain Wilson, Tom Rose and only a few others breakfasted with them ; and in the course of their short conversation, a wish was hinted to be informed, by what means the *Malay* they had brought with them, had reached their islands. The *Malay*, who could indistinctly hammer out a few sentences both of
Dutch,

Dutch and English, informed them, that he had formerly commanded a Chinese trading vessel, and about ten months since, on a voyage to Amboyna, had been cast away on a neighbouring island, from whence he had come to Pelew; this account they afterwards found reason to believe was not just. The Malay also mentioned, that one of the Pelew fishing canoes, had observed the wreck, and in consequence, these two canoes had been dispatched to succour the mariners if found. They disliked tea, but relished the biscuits very much; and in a short time grew very familiar and happy with us. After breakfast Captain Wilson introduced them to several of his officers, and acquainted them with our mode of welcoming, by shaking hands, a custom which they never afterwards omitted on meeting any of the English.

The

The natives were of a moderate size, but admirably proportioned and very muscular; their hair was long and black, rolled up in a peculiarly neat manner close to their heads; except the younger of the King's two sons, none of them had beards; they in general plucked out the hairs by the roots; and it was remarkable, that when they afterwards examined the persons of the Englishmen, they discovered not a little surprize that they could suffer hair to grow on their breasts. They were perfectly naked, and their skin of a deep copper colour; only their thighs appeared much darker, from being tatoood very closely. They used cocoa-oil, rubbing it on their skins, which gave them a shining appearance and very soft. The chief carried in his hand, a basket of beetle-nut, and a very neat bamboo, which contained what they called their *chinam*;

chinam; this is coral burnt to a lime, with which they sprinkle the leaf of the beetle-nut and then chew it; this makes their saliva red, which appearing betwixt their jet black teeth, occasions a very disagreeable contrast. They were conducted round the cove, and to the great surprize of the English, walked on broken rock, shells and thorny plants with the greatest ease. They were now enabled to support a mutual conversation, by means of the *Malay-man*, on the part of the natives, and Tom Rose on that of the English, and thus had an opportunity of examining one another as to the different appearances which occasioned mutual surprize. From this first interval, as well as what happened afterwards, it was evident, the natives had never before seen a white man, and were ignorant of the existence of
any

any such; the natural surprize at seeing them may therefore be conceived. The appearance of cloaths was quite new; indeed, they were at first at a loss to determine, whether the man and his drefs were not of the same substance. One of their ideas was exceedingly natural, on observing the white skin intermixed with the blue veins, they supposed the latter to be the effects of tattooing. But nothing afforded them greater surprize than the sight of two dogs belonging to the ship, which immediately on their approach, set up a loud bark to the great delight of the natives, who answered them in a shout almost as violent; in these animals, they took great delight, as, except a few grey rats, there are no quadrupeds on the island. Captain Wilson was exceedingly anxious to keep them ignorant of the nature and use of fire-arms; but
one

one of them accidentally picking up a small leaden bullet, surpris'd at its weight, examined the Malay about it, who request'd one of our musquets, to explain it by, to him. They seem'd very desirous that one of the English should go with them in their canoes to their King, that he might see what sort of people they were. Every one agreed that it would be right for some person to go; but as difficulties arose concerning who the person should be, the Captain request'd his brother, Mr Matthias Wilson, who readily consented; and about noon one of the canoes left the harbour, having Mr Wilson with them: the other canoe, with four persons, among whom was Raa Kook, the elder of the King's brothers, and who was also General of his armies, remained with our people, of their own accord, until the canoe return-

C

turned

ed with Mr Wilson. The Captain directed his brother to acquaint the King who they were; to relate to him, as well as he could, the nature of their misfortune; to solicit his friendship and protection, and permission to build a vessel to carry them back to their own country. He also sent a present by him to the King, of a small remnant of blue broad cloath, a canister of tea, another of sugar-candy, and a jar of rusk: the last article was added at the particular request of the King's two brothers.

Those who remained behind, observing that our people had much trouble to procure the fresh water which they had occasion for, conducted them across a narrow part of the island, where it was more plentiful; and the road to it being rugged and difficult, they carried Mr Sharp, a youth of about fifteen years of age, who was sent on this du-
ty,

ty, over the most difficult parts, in their arms; and were very careful also in assisting the men, in those places, who brought two jars of water from the well.

The weather remained as bad as ever all the next night; but grew better in the morning; and about 10 o'clock one of the boats went to the wreck. When they got there, they found that some of the natives had been on board; and that they had carried off some iron-work, and other things; and in particular, that they had rummaged the medicine-chest, and tasted several of the medicines, which being probably not very palatable, they had thrown out the contents, and carried off the bottles. This circumstance was made known to Raa Kook by the Captain, not so much by way of complaint, as to express his uneasiness for the conse-

quences which might arise to the natives from their having tasted, or perhaps drank, such a variety of medicines. Raa Kook's countenance fully described the indignation he felt at the treacherous behaviour of his countrymen; desiring that if they caught any of them attempting again to plunder the vessel, they would kill them, and he would justify the English to his brother for having done so: and he begged that Captain Wilson would entertain no uneasiness whatever on account of what the plunderers might suffer, because it would be entirely owing to their own misconduct.

The same evening, Captain Wilson made a proposition to his officers, the boldness and wisdom of which, and the resolution manifested in its execution, reflect the highest honour on him and them, while the unanimity and cheerfulness

cheerfulness displayed by the crew in acceding to it, equally redound to their credit. Every one who knows any thing of seamen, knows that their grog “is the solace and joy of their lives;”—that their grog softens all their hardships, and causes even the horrors of war to pass by them unfelt;—that there is no undertaking so dangerous, or so desperate, that they will not most readily attempt for it, nor scarcely a comfort in life that they will not forego rather than relinquish it. Yet Captain Wilson finding them rather noisy when they returned from the wreck, (owing to a little strong liquor which the officer who was then on duty had given them, and which coming after long toil, and on an empty stomach, had operated powerfully, rather from these circumstances than from the quantity which they had drank), it alarmed him

so much, that he submitted to his officers the propriety of staving (with the consent of the people) every cask of liquor which was in the ship. He knew it was too bold a step to be taken without their consent, and was fully aware of the difficulty of obtaining it; but he trusted to the regard which they had for him, and his influence over them; and he intended to make the people themselves the executioners of his purpose, while they were yet warm with the project. He had the satisfaction to find that his officers immediately acquiesced,—and the next morning he called all the crew together, and told them he had something to propose, in which their future welfare, nay, perhaps, their preservation, was most materially involved. He then submitted to their judgment the measure on which he and his officers had deliberated

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ted the evening before ; urged the propriety of it in the most forcible terms, as a step which would best authorise the hope of deliverance from their present situation, and of seeing once more their own country, and those who were dear to them ;——and he added, that however reluctantly they might yield to the proposition, yet they could not but be satisfied that the understanding of every individual amongst them must, on reflection, perceive that it was a measure absolutely necessary to be adopted. The moment he concluded, all the sailors, with the utmost unanimity, and to their lasting honour as men, replied, that however they might suffer from being deprived of their accustomed recruit of liquor, yet being sensible, that having easy access to it, they might not at all times use it with discretion, they gave their full assent to the Captain's proposal ;

propofal; and added, that they were ready to go directly to the fhip, and ftave every cask of liquor on board. This they moft confciencioufly performed; and fo fcrupuloufly did they execute their trust, that there was not a fingle man among them who would take even a farewell glafs of his beloved cordial.

During the abfence of Matthias Wilfon, they had an opportunity of getting more intimately acquainted with Raa Kook, whom they found a moft amiable character indeed. Obferving a piece of polished bone around his wrift, they took occafion to enquire into the meaning of it. He informed them, it was a mark of great diftinction, conferred only on the Blood Royal, and principal officers of ftate; and that he enjoyed it as being the King's brother and commander in chief of the forces both by fea and land. Raa Kook's
friendfhip

friendship was therefore cultivated with all imaginable assiduity, and he in return showed himself attached to them by a most attentive politeness; he imitated them in all their actions, and on every occasion shewed them how high an opinion he had formed of them. The *Malay* on his first arrival had requested the use of some cloathing which was readily granted, and an uniform coat with trowsers were at same time given to Raa Kook, who put them on, but soon wearied of them, as he found them cumbersome. He examined into the most minute action, and was at no little pains to learn from the cook, the method of blowing up the fire with a bellows.

In the morning of the 24th, two canoes arrived, in which were Arra Kooker, the King's other brother, and one of the King's sons. They informed Capt.

W.

W. that his brother was on his way back; but that the canoe in which he was, could not make so much speed against the wind as theirs, which occasioned the delay. The King by their means, offered them a hearty welcome to his territories, and assured them of his friendship and protection; he also desired them to build a vessel in any part of the island they inclined, and that he and his subjects would willingly afford them every assistance in their power. Raa Kook then took his nephew and introduced him particularly to the Captain and his officers, and conducted him round the cove, explained every thing agreeable to the information he himself had just received, and seemed mightily pleased with his friend's astonishment. This young man was very well made, but had a slit in his nose, probably the consequence of a wound in battle.

In

In the forenoon two boats were dispatched to the wreck. They found a number of the natives in about 20 canoes busied in examining the vessel; these Raa Kook soon dispatched, and on this as well as every occasion did every thing in his power to convince the English of his protection and friendship.

Meantime the people were highly entertained with Arra Kooker, who proved to be a most facetious entertaining man; possessing uncommon talents for mimicry and humour; he described by many diverting signs the terror of Matthias Wilson while at Pelew; indeed he had been under very great apprehension; but they were all revived with his appearance, and the account he gave them of his embassy, in nearly the following words:

On the approach of the canoe in
which

which I went to the island where the King lives, a vast concourse of the natives ran out of their houses to see me come on shore. The King's brother took me by the hand, and led me up to the town, where a mat was spread for me, on a square pavement, and I was directed to sit down on it. In a little time the King appeared, and being pointed out to me by his brother, I rose and made my obeisance after the manner of Eastern nations, by lifting my hands to my head, and bending my body forward; but he did not seem to pay any attention to it. I then offered him the presents which my brother had sent by me, and he received them in a very gracious manner. His brother now talked a great deal to him, the purport of which, as I conceived, was to acquaint him with our disaster, and the number of us; after which the King
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ate some of the sugar-candy, seemed to relish it, and distributed a little of it to several of his chiefs, and then directed all the things to be carried to his own house. This being done, he ordered refreshments to be brought for me: the first consisted of a cocoa-nut shell of warm water, sweetened with molasses: after tasting it, he directed a little boy, who was near him, to climb a cocoa-nut tree, and gather some fresh nuts; he cleared one of them from the husk, and after tasting the milk of it, bad the boy present it to me, making signs for me to drink the milk, and then return the nut to him; and when I had done so, he broke the shell in two, ate a little of the meat, and then returned it to me to eat the rest. A great crowd of the natives had by this time surrounded me, who were curious and eager to examine my clothes

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and person ; but as it began to be dark, the King, his brother, myself, and several others, retired into a large house, where supper was brought in, consisting of yams boiled whole, and others boiled and beaten together, as we sometimes do potatoes ; there were likewise some shell fish, but I could not determine what they were. After supper I was conducted to another house, at some distance from the first, by a female. Here I found at least forty or fifty men and women ; and signs were made for me to sit or lie down on a mat, which seemed spread on purpose for me to sleep on : and after all the company had satisfied themselves with viewing me, they went to sleep, and I laid myself down on the mat, and rested my head on a log, which these people use as a pillow, and drew another mat, which also seemed laid for the purpose,

purpose, over me. I was unable even to slumber, but lay perfectly still; and some considerable time after, when all was quiet, about eight men arose, and made two great fires at each end of the house, which was not divided by partitions, but formed one large habitation. This operation of theirs, I confess alarmed me very much indeed! I thought of nothing less, than that they were going to roast me, and that they had only laid themselves down, that I might drop asleep, for them to dispatch me in that situation. However, as there was no possibility of escaping the mischief, if any were intended, I collected all my fortitude, and recommended myself to the Supreme Disposer of all events. I lay still, expecting every moment to meet my fate; but, to my great surprize, after sitting a while to warm themselves, I perceived

that they all retired again to their mats, and stirred no more till day-light. I then got up, and walked about, surrounded by great numbers of men, women, and children; and, in a little time, was joined by the King's brother, who took me to several houses, in every one of which I was entertained with yams, cocoa-nuts, and sweet-meats. I was afterwards conducted to the King, to whom I signified, by signs, that I wished much to return to my brother: he understood me perfectly, and explained to me, by signs also, that the canoes could not go out, on account of the great wind. I spent the remainder of the day in walking about the island, and observing its produce, which consisted chiefly of yams and cocoa-nuts: the former they cultivate with great care, in large plantations, which are all in swampy watery ground, such

as

as the rice grows in, in India. The coconuts grow chiefly about their houses, as does also the beetle-nut, which they chew as tobacco."

The favourable account which Mr Wilson brought, joined to the message the King had sent to the Captain by his brother and son, put all our people into great spirits; so that they applied to their several avocations with redoubled vigour, and particularly to getting every thing they could from the wreck.

The number of the visitants increasing very fast, Captain Wilson judged it prudent to set a watch, their guests being previously apprised, lest the turning out suddenly under arms should occasion an alarm. Captain Wilson had kept all his crew under a regular course of exercise, so that they were very expert in handling their musquets,

to the no small surprize of Raa Kook and the natives, who were thus impressed with a very favourable opinion of the power and abilities of their visitants.

Arra Kooker, as has been already hinted, was a most extraordinary character; he possessed expressive features, that conveyed his meaning, though totally ignorant of his expressions. He was a man apparently about forty years of age; quite plump or rather round; he attempted at one time to wear trowsers, but found them very disagreeable; but was remarkably fond of a white linen shirt. One of the dogs was his great favourite, and whenever he approached him, the animal leaped and frisked about with every demonstration of joy. His talents for mimickry were so great that he soon discovered many singularities about the strangers, where-
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by they were distinguishable from one another, and kept them all in spirits.

Thus, by the kindness of Providence were these unhappy men, brought from a state of the greatest distress, to a situation at least tolerable; indeed, had it not been for the dread of not accomplishing the building of another vessel to carry them to China, and thus being for ever deprived, in all human probability, of seeing their friends, their families, and country, they might have spent their time very comfortably.

CHAP. II.

The King Visits them—Reception and Behaviour—Examines every thing, and is pleased—Farther Proceedings.

ON the 15th, the English were informed that the King was coming; and soon after they saw a great number of
canoes

canoes turning the point which formed the harbour; but the King stopped as soon as he got within the bay, and directed one squadron of the canoes, which were all armed, to retire to the back of the island; thinking, probably, that so great a number of armed people would create an alarm among the strangers. He then came forward with the rest, in great form, and with much parade, as far as the tide, which was then low, would permit them; and it was signified to Captain Wilson, by the King's brothers, that he should then go and meet him. Accordingly two of his own people took him on their shoulders, and carried him through the water to the King's canoe, which he was requested to enter; and he and the King, whose name was Abba Thulle, embraced one another. The Captain then related the
nature

nature of their misfortune to Abba Thulle, by means of the two Malays, and repeated his request to be permitted to build a vessel to carry them home; and the King again gave his permission for them to build it, either where they were, or at the island where he resided; but recommended the latter, adding, that the island on which they had landed was unhealthy, which was the reason it was not inhabited; and that he apprehended they would be ill when another wind began to blow. The Captain informed him, that they had a person with them whose business it was to cure diseases; and that it would be very inconvenient to them if they removed farther from the wreck of their vessel, because they could not then procure from her such things as they might want, without much trouble and loss of time. To these

these reasons the King assented; and making signs that he wished to land, the Captain was carried on shore by his people, and Abba Thulle, stepping into the water, followed him. On his landing, he looked about him with a good deal of apparent suspicion, which however was soon removed. Raa Kook made up to him, and a sail being spread for him agreeable to their practice, the chiefs of his company sat also down forming a square; and his other attendants, to the amount of about 300 inclosed them in a circle, squatting down at same time in such a position as that they could rise in a twinkling. Captain Wilson made him a present, of a piece of cloth and some ribbons, which seemed to please him very much. He was quite naked, as well as his brothers, and without any bone on his wrist, or other ornament; he carried a hatchet
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of Iron on his shoulder, which was so adapted to it, that it gave him no inconvenience.

Abba Thulle, the King, was introduced by Captain Wilson to the officers and all his men, and upon being told that Mr Benger was second in command, he designed him the *Kickaray Rupack*, supposing Captain Wilson to be the King of some country; but when he was made to understand, that he belonged to a mighty Sovereign, and that he was only his *Captain*, he readily got hold of the word *Captain*, by which name he constantly saluted him afterwards, and Mr Benger, *Kickaray Captain*. The King then enquired for Captain Wilson's badge of supremacy, which put him to a stand; luckily Mr Benger slipped his ring into his hand, which being produced, and the manner of wearing it shewn, pleased Abba Thulle

Thulle not a little, as it carried some affinity to their ornament of the bone.

Raa Kook, having as before-mentioned, examined every thing belonging to the English, very minutely, took much pains in pointing them out to the King; they went through the tents, in which every thing surpris'd them; nor did the difference between the Chinese and English escape their notice. Raa Kook at same time gave his brother to understand, that there were many different nations and classes of mankind on the earth; who were frequently at war with one another, as he often was with his neighbouring Islanders. Abba Thulle appeared to despise the Chinese exceedingly because they had no musquets.

But nothing seem'd to strike Abba Thulle with more astonishment than the fire-arms, with which Raa Kook endeavoured

endeavoured to make him acquainted. He expressed much anxiety to see them used, which Captain Wilson ordered immediately to be done. He desired Mr Benger to cause the sailors go thro' their exercise ranked up on the sea beach, being then low water, while he explained their motions to the King. The men went through various evolutions, with great readinefs, marching backwards and forwards, and concluded with three vollies. The astonishment and surprife of the natives on hearing the report of the musquets is not easily conceived; indeed, their hooting and hallooing made a noise little inferior to it. Captain Wilson judged it expedient to be guilty of a little profusion of their powder, on this occasion, in order to impress the minds of the natives, with a more enlarged idea of the power of the English; a design which was

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fully

fully answered by it. But still further to shew them the effects of their fire-arms, Mr Benger ordered one of the live doves which they had, to be let loose, at which he fired and immediately brought it down, with a leg and wing broken. This surpassed every thing in their estimation; indeed, they now seemed to have lost themselves in wonder and amazement.

Raa Kook was by this time pretty well acquainted with any articles the English had about them, which he took great pains in pointing out to the King, his brother; those that seemed principally to draw their notice, were, a Grinding-Stone, which they turned round with great satisfaction, observing the effect of it upon pieces of iron; they also examined the tents, and the few culinary articles the English had. But the dogs were the greatest

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est fund of entertainment to them; with whose barking they were so much delighted, that they kept a continual uproar with them, and it was found necessary to confine them. The King also examined the English as to their provisions, and got a piece of ham and a live goose.

Abba Thulle was vastly pleased with what he had seen, and proposed going away. This was notified to his attendants by a loud shriek from one of his officers, which gave not a little alarm to the English; it was instantaneously obeyed; the whole rushing to their canoes with great alacrity, and the King with the greater part of the natives took leave of them.

Raa Kook remained with the English all night, as did the King's son and a few of their attendants; Captain Wilson ordered two tents to be pitch-

ed, one for the principal people, and the other for the commonalty. He continued himself with Raa Kook and his party, after the guard was set for some hours. The natives in the distant tent anxious to pay all attention to their visitors, prepared to sing a song in their way. Their method of tuning their voices for this purpose, was attended with sounds so very dissonant and harsh, that the English thought they were beginning their war-hoop, or giving a signal to the King and those with him to attack them. Impressed with this idea, every man seized his musquet and ran to the tent where Captain Wilson was, supposing him to be in the most imminent danger. There they were undeceived and attended to the song which was conducted in the following manner; a chief gave out the line, which a company next him took
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up and completed the verse; the last line they repeated, and it was taken up by the next party, who also sung a verse. They continued their song some time, and made signs for our people to repay them in kind, which was done by a lad, named Cobbledick, to their great satisfaction. The manner of this lad's singing was afterwards mentioned to the King, who, upon hearing him, was so much pleased, that he never met with him afterwards, without desiring him to sing.

We come now to mention a circumstance, which presents these natives of Pelew in a light that could not have been pre-conceived; a circumstance which discovers such nice feelings, as on the one hand displays human nature in a very pleasing attire, in this her native dress; while on the other, it may put to the blush enlightened nations

and individuals. The English had no other means for again revisiting their native homes, but by constructing a small schooner; and for this purpose, had only a few instruments saved from the wreck: these they carefully concealed from the natives, who had shewn a particular attachment to iron and instruments made of that metal. Accidentally, a chief had observed where they were, and requested a cutlass from Captain Wilson: the Captain was loth to part with it, but fearing worse consequences in case he refused, thought it best to give it. As they went out of the tent Raa Kook observed it with great displeasure, took it from him, and returned it to Captain Wilson. In a few hours the *Malay* coming ashore, told the Captain he had given great offence by offering a cutlass to an inferior officer and neglecting the
King

King and his brothers. In order to make up matters, Captain Wilfon thought it best to present each of the King's brothers with some cloth and ribbons, which were very coolly received—they seemed to be unhappy. In the afternoon, the King came round from the back part of the island where he had spent the night, and Captain Wilfon went out in the jolly boat with Tom Rose to meet him. Now Abba Thulle who had been so happy and pleased the day before, appeared with a gloomy reserve, and the poor Englishmen trembled in anticipating the dreadful effects of his displeasure which they thought he was meditating. But the real cause of the uneasiness which evidently depressed them all, was nothing more than a struggle in their own breasts, how they should ask a favour, from strangers almost wholly
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in their own power, without having the appearance of a command. A neighbouring nation had injured them, and as they meant to attack them in battle in a few days, they very justly foresaw the advantages which would arise from the presence of a few of the English sailors with their fire-arms. At length with much evident confusion, Abba Thulle hinted it to Captain Wilson, who immediately assured him, he might at any time command his men, who were entirely at his service. No sooner was this answer notified by the interpreter, than every countenance brightened up, and cordiality and happiness were restored. The King, immediately dubbed the Captain a brother Ruck, intreated him to send some of his people to the part of the island where he lived, to carry him whatever provisions they needed, and concluded with
assuring

assuring him, that his people were entirely at his service, to assist in constructing their vessel or any thing else in their power. He immediately retired to the opposite side of the island, promising to return next morning for the men. Nor was the happy settlement of this affair less agreeable to the English than the natives; the fear of having incurred the displeasure of those whose favour was so necessary, had distressed them not a little, and they accordingly were every one more zealous than his neighbour to be chosen for this service; the following five were appointed, Mr Cummin 3d mate, Madan Blanchard, Nicholas Tyacke, Jas. Bluett and Thomas Dutton. They accordingly set off next morning, properly armed and accoutered, Abba Thulle, insisting on leaving four of his attendants by way of hostages.

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It is a rule among merchant ships, that in case of shipwreck, all superiority of rank or command ceases, and every individual becomes his own master, and may shift as he can for himself; but as they were now preparing to build a vessel, they agreed to form themselves as the people of a dock-yard, and appoint their beloved Captain sole Manager and Director, which was done. Mr Barker who had in his younger years been employed about a dock-yard, designed a plan for the vessel which was agreed to be a schooner, and all heartily and cordially proceeded to the different occupations assigned them; some in felling trees, others carrying them to the dock, while the greater part were engaged in dressing them, &c. Their spirits now revived with the prospect of deliverance, and all seemed but as one man, having only one object in view.

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The situation of these unhappy people opens a wide field for reflection; many circumstances rendered it very questionable how far it was practicable to complete their schooner; and if they failed, all views of happiness or comfort in this life, they considered as at an end; yet so animated were they with the hope of success, none gave way to desponding, but every one looked forward with rapture to the finishing of their new vessel, as the *summum bonum* which they were capable of enjoying. The Antelope being fixed and stuck to the coral reef, they had opportunity of getting from her various articles which greatly expedited their undertaking. One day they observed a green branch tied to the mast head; this they afterwards learned was a signal to any canoes that might be straggling

gling about, that the King was gone to war, and they should follow.

The boats paid a daily visit to the wreck, from which they got many valuable articles. They one day brought with them two casks of beef, and a small cask of arrack which had been overlooked when the spirits were staved. As they now underwent excessive labour and fatigue, Captain Wilson thought it prudent to allow every man a small quantity of grog, which was a valuable cordial to them.

By Sunday the 24th of August, they had got the keel laid on the blocks, and the stem and stern post bolted. Captain Wilson therefore ordered every man to attend public prayers and thanksgivings to God for all his kindness to them, a practice which was continued every Sunday evening thereafter during their stay on the island.

Next

Next day they kept a holiday, having already christened their embryo of a vessel, *The Relief*, and every man received a double quantity of grog on the occasion.

About this time also they raised a sort of rampart or barricade in front of the tents towards the sea; on the inside they had a foot bank on which they could stand and fire one of the six pounders which they had brought from the wreck; and by this means, with the assistance of two swivels, also mounted on the barricade, they were pretty well prepared to defend the entrance of the cove.

Nine days had now elapsed since the five Englishmen had left *Oroolong* with Abba Thulle, and there had been no news from them since, although it was expected, they would have returned within five days; their friends were

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therefore

therefore not a little anxious about them. Captain Wilson, uncertain to what cause to attribute their stay, agreed with his comrades in a proposal they made, to settle a plan of defence within the barricade, and to open a communication from one tent to another, through which they could join or retreat in case of an attack.

In the afternoon of Monday the 25th the five men returned, accompanied by Raa Kook, with a present of yams, coconuts and sweet-meats. Mr Cummin gave the following account of their expedition.

“ They spent the night after their departure from the cove, in an island about six leagues to the eastward; and next day arrived at Pelew, which is about four miles distant. Here they spent some days, while the natives were collecting their canoes. On the morning of
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of the 21st they were all assembled, to the amount of more than 1000 men, in about 150 canoes; the English were separated in five different canoes. Early in the afternoon they came in sight of the enemy, when Raa Kook, having Thomas Dutton in his canoe, went close in by the town and spoke to the enemy for some time. His harangue they heard with indifference, when he immediately threw a spear, which was instantly returned; Dutton then fired, and a man fell, to the great confusion of the enemy. This was speedily followed by a few more shots, and Abba Thulle was soon left master of the field. The flight was all the mark of victory wished for; and all the trophies they desired, were a few cocoa-nuts and yams. After the engagement, the fleet returned homeward; the King called at several places by the way, where

the women brought out sweet-meat liquor to drink. They did not reach Pelew till seven o'clock next evening, having spent the preceding night in various small creeks on the way. On their landing the English fired a volley and gave three cheers, to the great entertainment of the natives. Public rejoicings took place throughout the island, and every mark of attention and respect was paid to the English. The King took them to his own house, treated them with stewed turtle, thanked them most politely for their assistance, and enquired at Mr Cummin, whether he could have ten men to assist him in another expedition he had in view; Mr Cummin referred him to Captain Wilson as he had no authority, and departed very much pleased with the expedition. They landed on the island where they had spent the first
night

night, were again most hospitably entertained, and returned next morning to their companions. This evening they spent with much festivity, the absentees had their nine days complement of arrack measured out to them, and together with the yams and coconuts made themselves happier than a few days before they could have supposed it possible for them to be. Mr Cummin described the arms of the natives as consisting of darts from five to eight feet long, pointed and bearded with the wood of the beetle-nut tree, which they use when closely engaged; when they fight at a distance, they use short ones, which by means of an elastic piece of bamboo, they throw at a particular object with surprising dexterity."

On the morning of the 27th, some of the hands were dispatched in the jolly boat to the watering place, and to

cast the seine, which they did without success. As the day was pleasant, two or three of them proposed to return over land, and accordingly set out; the remainder returned to the cove in the boat. Night drew on and no tidings of the travellers. People were immediately dispatched with lanthorns to traverse the country in search of them. They halloed as they went along, and luckily discovered the benighted travellers, resting on the very brink of a precipice, over which they must unavoidably have fallen, had not the lights appeared at the critical moment they did.

Raa Kook now informed Captain Wilson, that the King his brother, bestowed on the English the island on which they were, named by the natives *Oroolong*; the Captain accordingly hoisted the British pendant, and took possession

cession for the English ; firing three vol-
lies of small arms, as an instrument of
possession. Raa Kook likewise request-
ed Captain Wilson to pay a visit to his
brother at Pelew, which from the ma-
ny things he had to attend to at Oroo-
long, the Captain was obliged to de-
cline : but he dispatched in his room,
Mr Benger the first mate, his own bro-
ther Mr Matthias Wilson, and Tom
Rose, to compliment the King on his
late victory. He also sent one of the Chi-
nese, who are all great botanists, to ex-
amine the natural productions of the
island. They were received by the
King and his people with great hospi-
tality ; and entertained with songs in
which the word *Englees* was often re-
peated, seeming to refer to the late en-
gagement, of which they had a grate-
ful recollection ; Abba Thulle menti-
oned to Mr Benger a more formidable
expedition

expedition he had in contemplation, in which he expected the assistance of the English. Mr Benger said their houses were very comfortable, surrounded with plantations of yams and coconuts; they have no corn of any kind, although the soil appeared to be very rich. They have no cattle nor quadrupeds but rats. The Chinese gave a very poor account of the island, in which he found nothing to his mind.

Captain Wilson now set out in the boat, to survey the island which he had got possession of, the whole circumference of which he judged did not exceed three miles. On the north side it is all covered with trees and a steep rock hangs prominent upon the sea. There is a fine sandy beach on the west side, as well as a fine plain between the hills and the sea. The south side is rocky like the north; but in several

veral interior parts of the island, especially towards the west, there are evident traces of its having formerly been inhabited.

C H A P III.

Captain Wilson visits Pelew—Manners of the natives—
Ten Men sent with them to battle—Battle of Artin-
gall—Raa Kook visits Oroolong for more men—
Death and funeral of the King's Son.

ON Sunday the 31st of August, Captain Wilson resolved to pay his long intended visit to Pelew; and accordingly went about prayers in the morning, previous to his setting out. Though it did not appear during all the time the English were about these islands, that the natives had any religious ceremonies, it is remarkable that on this as well as several other occasions, they paid

gave no disturbance to the English when so employed ; but paid the greatest attention to what they saw, and behaved with the utmost decency. Mr. Devis, Mr Sharp and Harry Wilson accompanied the Captain on this visit ; The English in their jolly boat, attended by Raa Kook and other natives in a canoe. As a mark of the uncommon attention which Raa Kook on all occasions paid them, the following circumstance may be noticed. About noon, when they were as yet three or four miles distant from Pelew, he paddled off with all expedition to a little town by the water edge, from whence he brought them, what provisions he could procure, to refresh them. About 1 o'clock they reached Pelew ; fired six musquets and fixed their colours in the ground at the end of the causeway where they landed. Raa Kook conducted

ducted them to a house where they waited the arrival of Abba Thulle. Meantime the natives thronged into the house to have a peep at the English, bringing along with them various refreshments and sweet-meats. In a little it was notified that the King was at hand, when, notwithstanding the multitude then present, the greatest silence prevailed. On his arrival, Captain Wilson embraced him as at first meeting, and presented him with a few trinkets, which were very agreeably received.

Abba Thulle now proposed to conduct them to the town, which is about a quarter of a mile from the landing place, where they were. The English, in order to assume some little formality, carried their colours before them. They passed through a wood, and then came to a fine pavement or causeway ;
there

there are large broad stones laid in the middle for the ease of walking, and lesser ones on the sides; this led them to the town, where they were conducted to a large square pavement, surrounded by houses. In the centre stood a larger house than the rest, which was allotted to the English for their accommodation. In it there were a number of women, of a superior rank, being wives to the Rupacks or principal officers of state, who received them very politely and presented them with cocoa-nuts and sweet drink of which all partook.

In a little the King, after a suitable apology to Captain Wilson, retired to bathe, and a message was sent from the Queen, expressing a wish to be favoured with the company of the English at her house; thither they all repaired, and were seated in a little square before
the

the house. It appeared that this lady was the principal wife of Abba Thulle; (for he had others,) great attention being paid to her by all; the King resided almost constantly at her house. She appeared at the window, and by means of Raa Kook, examined into the various peculiarities in the appearance of the English which struck her. She sent them a broiled pigeon, which is the greatest rarity the island produces, and is held in the highest estimation; it is unlawful for any but Rupacks and their wives to taste them. After satisfying her curiosity, they were conducted by the General to his house, where they met with a very different reception, and had an opportunity of observing the benevolent heart of this worthy man in domestic life. In his house they were treated with the greatest kindness, and with the most expressive

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tokens

tokens of real welcome; but what particularly warmed their hearts on this occasion, was the endearing behaviour of Raa Kook to his wife and children. These last he fondled on his knees and encouraged with all the genuine marks of parental affection. The night was now pretty far advanced, when they retired to their house, where their friend the General spared no pains to render their accommodation comfortable. He procured plenty of mats for them to sleep on, kindled fires to defend them from the mosquitos and damps, and ordered some of his own men to sleep at the other end to protect them from any of the natives, who might be led to disturb them from motives of curiosity. Next morning they were attended as usual by Raa Kook, and after walking about for some time, were ordered to attend the King to breakfast
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in the Queen's house where they had been the day before. They were received with a peculiar etiquette, which was never afterwards practised. The house was all in one apartment; at the one end of which hung a screen of mats which when drawn up discovered the King and Queen seated. They breakfasted on yams and fish very agreeably. After breakfast Mr Sharp the surgeon, accompanied by Mr Devis, set out to visit a child of Arra Kook's, which was sick. His house was about three miles distant; this gave them an opportunity of examining the country, which they had not before done. This visit was very acceptable, and the Ruck thought he could not sufficiently repay them. Mr Sharp examined the child's body, which was almost covered with ulcers, but could not prescribe any thing, having no medicines. He

approved of the mode of cure they had adopted, which was chiefly fomentation. Arra Kook then laded several servants with provisions, &c. in baskets, to be sent to the boats, and assured them when they left the island, they should have his whole rookery of pigeons. This by the way, was the greatest compliment he could offer them, in his estimation, and sufficiently shews the uncommon gratitude with which his bosom was warmed—indeed, the readers will on many occasions have anticipated the remark, that the finer feelings and virtues which adorn humanity, shone in these natives in no common degree. They returned to Captain Wilson at Pelew the same evening.

The request which had been repeatedly mentioned by Abba Thulle, was now formally made to Captain Wilson, by desire of a council of Rupacks, *viz.*
that.

that he would allow them ten men to accompany them to a second engagement at Artingall, which was most readily complied with; Captain Wilfon mentioned at same time that it would be obliging were the men detained as short time as possible, not to hinder the progress of their schooner; to this Abba Thulle most engagingly replied, "That it was not his wish to detain them longer than was absolutely necessary, but after doing him so much service, he behoved to keep them a day or two to rejoice with him." The council had met in the forenoon on this business; every Ruck or chief was seated on a stone, that for the King being higher than the rest, and disputed from side to side as it happened, without any regular order of speakers; it appeared that every thing was decided by a majority, so

that their government bears no small affinity to our own.

The remainder of the time the English spent at Pelew, was very agreeably employed. One day when in company with a great number of the natives, Mr Devis, who was an excellent draughtsman, took out his pencil, and was busily employed in taking the likeness of a woman who drew his attention; the lady observing him, and ignorant of his intention, retired in great confusion. A chief beside him, noticing the drawing, was greatly pleased and shewed it to the King, who immediately ordered two women to come forward and stand in a proper position for Mr Devis to take their likenesses. Mr Devis soon finished his sketches and presented them to the King who was highly entertained, and calling the women shewed them their portraits, with
which

which they were much pleased. Abba Thulle then desired Mr Devis to give him his pencil and paper, on which he scratched a few figures, very rudely, but sufficiently to shew his conception of what had been done. So that while he thus displayed his own inferiority to the Artist, he at same time gave evident proofs of the sense he had of it, and his wishes to possess these qualifications which so pleased him.

Captain Wilson and his companions were carried to see their method of building canoes, by which means they saw some canoes which were just returned from a skirmish, in which they had proved victorious; they had captured a canoe, which was considered as great a trophy, as a first rate man of war would be in Britain. On this occasion the English had an opportunity

ty of observing their method of celebrating such exploits, or keeping a day of festivity. There was a great feast prepared for the warriors, previous to which they danced in the following manner. They ornamented themselves with plantain leaves, nicely paired into stripes, like our ribbons, which being of a yellowish colour, had a good effect on their dark skins; then forming themselves into circles, one within another, an elderly person began a song, or long sentence, (for they were not certain which,) and on his coming to the end of it, all the dancers joined in concert, dancing along, at same time; then a new sentence was pronounced and danced to, which continued till every one had sung, and his verse been danced to. Their manner of dancing, is not so much capering and leaping, or other feats of agility, as a certain method.

method of reclining their bodies and yet preserving their ballance. During the dance sweet drink was handed about, and when it was finished, an elegant supper was brought in.

Mr Sharp carried Captain Wilson one afternoon to see his favourite Ar-ra Kook, who received them with great joy, and entertained them very kindly. They went through many plantations on their way, and were much surpris'd to find the country so highly cultivated. They observed a tree named by the natives *Ri'a'mall*, which the English supposed to be a species of the bread-fruit. After enjoying plentifully this good man's bounty, they returned to Pelew, highly delighted with their agreeable excursion. In the course of any observations they had opportunity of making, they found the employment of the men generally to be making

making darts, hewing trees, &c. while the women, looked after the yams, wrought the mats and baskets, nursed their children and dressed the victuals.

On Thursday the 4th of September they left Pelew, loaded with presents, and amidst the loud acclamations of a vast number of the natives. They arrived safe at the cove about nine in the evening and found all their companions well and proceeding in their work with the utmost alacrity. The Captain immediately informed them of the request the natives had made for ten men, and every one was anxious to be of the party; at length they were determined upon, and ordered to be in readiness on a call.

Elevated with the prospect of happily attaining that great point to which their most sanguine wishes were directed, there was only one thing which they

they dreaded, and that was, whether they could find a passage with sufficiency of water to carry them through the reef; this Captain Wilson set out in search of, and luckily discovered a narrow opening, where there was about three feet and a half water, so that at spring tides which rise about nine feet, they could depend on at least twelve feet, which was considerably more than their schooner could draw.

In the afternoon of Sunday the 7th of September some canoes touched at the cove, bringing with them some fresh fish, which they bartered for iron; and the following day the King arrived, attended by his brothers, the *Prime Minister*, and several other chiefs; they also brought fish, especially some of a species, which they had not seen before, but which when boiled, proved very palatable. It measures about three feet

feet in length, and one foot across, the flesh is very firm like a large cod.

During this visit, the King examined every thing with more attention than before, besides many new objects of surprize were now to be seen. The Smith and his forge proved a matter of great astonishment, never did a conjuror keep an audience in such surprize and consternation, as the smith did the natives with his fire, bellows, and anvil; so enamoured were they with the red hot iron, that they could not be prevented from catching the sparks, though many suffered in the attempt. Nor did the Cooper and his casks escape their enquiries; the dispatch with which he hooped and inclosed a barrel, seemed to them the effect of some supernatural power: in short, every thing seemed to surprize so much, and drew so many spectators, that the workmen
could

could not keep elbow room, and were of course much impeded in their work. Captain Wilson had therefore to use many stratagems to entice away the chiefs, and Raa Kook, was obliged to interpose his authority to keep the natives at a distance. The barricade which had been erected since the King's last visit, was a matter of much surprise, they examined the breast work with attention, and did not fail to enquire the use of the six pounder and great gun; the Captain did his best to explain the use of them, giving him to understand, that were the people of Artingall, or any other enemies to approach the cove, they could blow them to pieces; and in like manner by turning the swivels, he shewed them, that they could defend themselves by land. This information exceeded every thing they had heard; they talked among themselves,

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and by their gestures and attitudes seemed to be lost in surprize. But the great matter which occupied the attention of all on this visit, was the appearance of the new vessel. The King examined every thing about her with the most minute attention; calling his workmen, and desiring them to notice and profit by what they saw. The power and effects of the iron work, and the strong manner in which the whole was bolted and wedged together, surprized the artificers still more than the King; so that poring into every thing with the most inquisitive eye, they were not more amazed at what they saw done, than to conceive how it was possible to complete the work, so as to keep out water and answer the purposes of navigation. They had an opportunity of observing an instance of great superstition on this occasion. In order to get pieces

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ces of wood proper for the different uses for which they were wanted, they had made use of several different kinds; the natives observed one kind in particular which they pointed out to the English, and requested they would not use, as it would certainly prove unlucky. Captain Wilson politely thanked them for their well meant hint, at the same time assuring them he dreaded no harm. The King and his retinue retired as usual to the back of the island and spent the night.

Next morning they returned over land, still full of the idea of the guns, and entreated the Captain to give them a swivel along with them on the expedition; this Captain Wilson shewed him was impracticable, as they required boats, particularly constructed for working them. He then begged to see the six pounder fired, which was ordered

to be done. A scene now ensued which it is not easy to describe. If the firing of the musquets occasioned the surprize of which we lately took notice, how much it was increased on this occasion may be conceived. The process of loading was attended to very particularly, but the flame and the following report perfectly stunned them. They stared at one another for a few seconds, then pushing their fingers into their ears run up and down crying out, the noise being much too violent for the drum of their ears, not accustomed to so loud a noise. This however only served to stimulate their wish for having one of the swivels with them, which they thought would strike such Terror into their enemies, as a long course of years only would efface.

Abba Thulle in the afternoon repeated his request for the swivel, which
Captain

Captain Wilson found great difficulty to convince him it was not in his power to give him; indeed he rather suspected the King and his ministers went away not altogether well pleased with the refusal. Mr Benger therefore who had the command of the party, and had all his men ready drawn up with their arms, ordered them immediately into the canoes, and they set sail. Captain Wilson took every opportunity of getting information concerning the neighbouring islands and their situation; the names of the principal were, Artingall, Pellelew and Emillegue.

On Monday the 15th the party returned from the engagement at Artingall, all well, though some of them had made a very narrow escape; the canoe in which Mr Matthias Wilson and James Duncan were, had been overfet by a sudden squall of wind,

whereby both they and four natives along with them had nearly gone to the bottom. Unluckily neither Wilson nor Duncan could swim, but by the vigilance and attention of some of the natives they were got up into a canoe, having kept fast hold of a piece of raft nearly two hours. They brought the agreeable news of having effected another complete victory at Artingall, which Mr Matthias Wilson related in nearly the following manner.

“ They reached Pelew the same night they left Oroolong, from whence Abba Thulle wished they should immediately proceed to Artingall; this however, they assured him was impracticable, as it rained hard, and would certainly prove hurtful to the arms; they were all well lodged and entertained. The following evening, they went on board the canoes appointed for them
along

along with the King, Arra Kooker, Raa Kook and the other Rupacks, and a great number of the natives; the old men, women and children, followed them to the water side, when they sounded conch shells, to notify their departure to the canoes that were yet in their creeks; these soon assembled to the amount of more than two hundred. They proceeded slowly, the greater part of the night, but stopped at an island on the way, and slept on the ground for three hours before day break. They soon reached Artingall, and halted till the sun was fairly risen, and the enemy had notice of their approach; for, let it not pass unnoticed, it is an established rule in these islands, never to attack an enemy under night or unprepared.

As the King had some days before sent information to Artingall, of his
proposed

proposed attack, and at the same time terms of peace, he now ordered a canoe with four men in it to proceed to the island, and enquire whether they were to submit or to fight. Each of the heralds had one of the long tail-feathers of the tropic bird stuck upright in their hair, as a symbol of peace. The messengers soon returned, informing that they refused the terms offered them. Immediately Abba Thulle ordered the conch to be sounded, and waved his chinam stick in the air, the signal for forming the line of battle. Meantime the enemy collected their canoes, but kept close by the shore, shewing an evident disinclination to come to battle. Abba Thulle had dressed himself in the scarlet coat which Captain Wilson had given him, and kept one of the Englishmen in his canoe, the other nine were dispersed through

through the fleet in nine different canoes, armed with musquets, cutlasses, bayonets and pistols.

Finding the enemy would not advance, and their present situation being very unfavourable for the attack, the King ordered a party of canoes to go round a neck of high land, and lie there concealed; he then ordered the remainder to exchange a few darts in their present position, and retreat with apparent precipitancy; by these means he expected to draw the enemy from their shores, and the concealed squadron could then get betwixt them and land, and thus hem them in on all hands. He dispatched his orders with great readiness by means of some very swift sailing canoes, which cut the water with astonishing velocity. His scheme took place as wished. The enemy rushed out to pursue the apparent fugitives, and

and the canoes coming round the high land, furrounded them on all sides. Those who fled now turned about, and by means of the few fire arms, threw the enemy into terror and confusion. The noise of the musquets, their friends dropping they knew not how, and the triumphant haloo which the natives of Pelew set up, totally discomfitted them; they retreated with precipitation, rushed through the canoes that were betwixt them and the land, as there were but few of them, and by that means all escaped but six canoes and nine natives who were captured. The victory was however considered as very complete; it is very seldom that any canoes are taken, and two or three prisoners are generally the greatest number. The very dead bodies are carefully carried off the field of battle, lest they

they should fall into the hands of the conquerors to expose them.

The conflict from first to last did not continue three hours; therefore having paraded round the enemy's shores, sounding the conch shell in signal of defiance, and firing when any of them appeared within musquet shot, the King ordered the canoes to be collected and to return to Pelew.

It now becomes necessary to mention a practice totally inconsistent with that humanity, which has uniformly been pointed out as a most remarkable feature in the character of these natives of Pelew. Notwithstanding the entreaties and remonstrances of the English, nothing could prevent the death of the prisoners. The reason assigned for this barbarous practice was, that they had formerly retained them as slaves, in which capacity they soon got acquainted

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ed with their various stores, the creeks and channels of the island, and somehow or other afterwards escaping, made use of the knowledge of the country they had acquired, in assisting them in their depredations; they had therefore found it necessary to kill every person whom the chance of war brought within their power.

All the prisoners had been wounded in the engagement, and seemed to wait their expected fate with great courage. The principal was a Rupack, known by the bone about his wrist; this they endeavoured to wrench from him, but without effect; he struggled to retain it with singular magnanimity; nor did he quit it but died in the contest. His head was stuck on a bamboo, and fixed before the King's house at Pelew.

Mr Benger took great pains to preserve the life of a poor fellow in the canoe

noe where he was, and kept him safe for two hours, when one of the King's people, who had been wounded, snatched the Malay's dagger from him, and stabbed him, before he could be prevented. Mr Benger observed that the man died very undauntedly, and seemed while in the agonies of death more impressed with the appearance and colour of his new enemy, than what he was suffering. In the boat where Mr Wilson was, there were two prisoners, one of whom was wounded by a spear in several parts of his body, and the other had his thigh broke. When they go to war they knit their hair in a bunch at the crown of the head, and immediately on being captured, they throw it loose over their faces, waiting the fatal stroke. No sooner did these two victims signify that they were ready, than they were ordered to sit down

in the bottom of the canoe, which the lame man readily did and was immediately killed; the other resisted for some time, when one of the natives, snatching Mr Wilson's bayonet, plunged it into his body; he lay for some time weltering in his blood, but never uttered a single groan.

They touched at several islands on their way home where the bodies were exposed in triumph; and the inhabitants who were either subjects or allies, rejoiced with them on the occasion. They brought out sweet drink, and other refreshments, and seemed to participate in the general triumph. A vast multitude waited at the landing place of Pelew ready to receive them, loaded with fruit, &c. Great festivity and rejoicings took place immediately, and the praises of the Englees resounded in their songs as formerly."

After

After the return of the party all hands were kept busily employed at the schooner, which was now rapidly advancing. They also continued to send frequently to the wreck, from whence they brought a variety of articles very useful to them. That hunger is an excellent whetter of the appetite, has been often experienced, but never more justly than at present; they discovered about 20 bags of rice in the wreck, which having been so long under water, would not now boil to a grain; but a jelly, yet they considered it as very favourable food.

The men who returned from the last expedition brought a message from the King, informing Captain Wilson that he would pay him a visit in a few days, to make his acknowledgements for the assistance he had given them; he at same time retained Tom Rose to give

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him

him information as to several particulars concerning the English, with which he wished to be acquainted.

Nothing new occurred for several days; the weather was exceedingly rainy and stormy, accompanied with frequent and loud thunder. They made several attempts to recruit their stock of provisions by fishing, but always in vain; whether it was owing to their ignorance of the proper places, or not using proper bait, Captain Wilson never could determine.

On the 22d of September, Tom Rose returned from Pelew, bringing with him a quantity of yams, a jar of molasses, and a particular apology from Abba Thulle, for having so long delayed his intended visit; but many of the neighbouring Rupacks having come to Pelew, to congratulate him on his late victories, he could not leave them
without

without giving offence; and he could not bring them with him lest it should be inconvenient to the English. There was something peculiarly delicate in all Abba Thulle's behaviour; what education, or refinement could have suggested more real politeness than this message conveyed; anxious on the one hand to avoid any appearance of ingratitude; and on the other, fearful lest his visit should prove prejudicial to those who had served him.

On the evening of the 28th Raa Kook arrived at Oroolong, accompanied by two chiefs of some neighbouring islands; they brought a present of cocoa-nuts, yams and molosses. Soon after their arrival, Captain Wilson read prayers, as was usual, every Sunday evening, at which Raa Kook and several of the natives attended; some of them began to talk aloud, and were immediately

checked by Raa Kook, who behaved with great decency; while thus employed, the Malay arrived from Pelew with a message to the Captain, which however Raa Kook would not suffer him to deliver, till prayers were ended. Abba Thulle delighted with the success he had already obtained by means of the English, was eager to take advantage of them, while in his territories, to assist him in subduing his enemies; he therefore desired Raa Kook to request fifteen men, with one of the swivel guns to go with them in a third grand expedition. Captain Wilson having several things in his mind which had of late given him some uneasiness as to the behaviour of some of the natives, determined to take this opportunity of stating his grievances to Raa Kook, which he accordingly did. He complained of several thefts which
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the natives had committed from the wreck; particularly paper, copper, and a sixpounder; he mentioned the inhuman practice of killing all the prisoners, which made the English regret that they should have any concern in their engagements; and lastly, he told him that he was informed Abba Thulle expected the same homage from him and his countrymen which was paid him by his own people. This circumstance had been privately suggested to the English, for no other reason, as it afterwards appeared, than to occasion a difference if possible between the English and the natives of Pelew. Captain Wilson likewise hinted that he considered it as a piece of disrespect to send home his men without a Rupack, or some person of consequence to attend them. It is not easy to describe the appearance which Raa Kook's countenance

nance assumed on this information.— Shame, vexation and disappointment were each in their turns depicted on it, in a manner much more expressive than any language he could have used. At length after some considerable pause, he assured the Captain, that he would entirely remove any grounds of distrust betwixt them—That as to the articles taken from the ship, they would all be returned, except the paper which had been rendered useless by the rain; the sixpounder had never been taken with an intention to be kept, but that Abba Thulle had sent for it to be shewn to some of his visitors as a curiosity, and meant certainly to return it. The return of the English without a Rupack had been entirely owing to Mr Benger's hurry, who would not delay his departure a little till things were prepared. He repeated what has been formerly mentioned,

mentioned, as their reason for putting the prisoners to death, being a matter not of choice but necessity; at the same time, he agreed to put the prisoners into Captain Wilson's hand to be treated as he should think fit; but what principally distressed him was the idea that his brother should have been represented as expecting homage from the English; this he reprobated as an infamous falsehood. It afterwards appeared that the Malay had been confined some time for his ingenuity in this lie. This good man's reasoning had a very satisfactory effect, and Captain Wilson having first consulted with his officers, agreed to grant their request, only limiting the number of men from fifteen to ten, as more could not be spared from the work.

Matters being thus agreeably concluded, they sat down to supper with
great

great pleasure; after which Raa Kook told Mr Sharp he had now a request to make to him, which he hoped he would grant him; and that was, to go along with him to Pelew, to inspect his son's foot, which was very dangerously hurt by a spear, which having sunk deep into the foot was broke off in attempting to pull it out; and the barb of the spear having got in among the small bones, they could not extract it. Meantime, his foot swelled amazingly, to the great distress of the young man. One of the natives, reputed among them as a man of skill, began to cut away the flesh; but after mangling his foot in a terrible manner, he was obliged to desist, as the effusion of blood became so great that he could not continue the operation. They therefore had recourse to their mode of fomentation, of which Mr Sharp much approved, and desired it
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to be continued till he saw him, which he could not propose at this time, three of the ablest men being sick.

Next day about noon, Raa Kook set sail with ten men under the command of Mr Cummin, and in their absence the remainder continued their labours at Oroolong with unremitting assiduity.

Although not directly in the course of the narrative, as the reader's curiosity will no doubt be somewhat raised to learn the sequel of the young man's history just mentioned, we shall next introduce Mr Sharp's account of his excursion to see him.

Immediately on his landing he went directly to the General, his father's house, who met him with visible distress in his countenance.

Mr Sharp acquainted him, that he was come to see his son, and had brought such instruments with him,

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as would enable him, he hoped, to administer relief. He smiled approbation, and conducted him to his house, where Abba Thulle, and several of the principal people were assembled. After paying his respects to them, Mr Sharp was informed, that during Raa Kook's stay at Oroolong, the swelling had subsided by means of the fomentation, and they had forced the spear through his foot, as the only method of extracting it. At this time the whole army was setting out on the grand expedition, which the young man hearing, could not bear the thoughts of being absent from. He therefore insisted upon being carried to his canoe, where though he could not stand on his feet to fight, he could raise himself so much up as to throw a spear. He therefore went along, and very early in the engagement fell a sacrifice to his magnanimity;

ty ; a spear entering through his throat, occasioned his immediate death. It is impossible to pass over in silence the unhappy fate of this gallant youth. A spirit more truly heroic, history has not left on record ; nor need we hesitate to say, that there was more real valour displayed in this action, which accident only has brought on record, than in many feats which have attracted the admiration of many generations.

This also gives us an opportunity of mentioning their mode of burial, to which Mr Sharp was witness on this occasion. Raa Kook desired Mr Sharp and the boatswain to accompany him to the water side, where two canoes were waiting, into which they went, accompanied by about 20 Rupacks, whom they had not formerly seen, as they belonged to another island, tho' friendly to Abba Thulle. Mr Sharp

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knew not whither they were going, but suffered himself to be conducted by his friend. They landed upon an island about four miles distant from Pelew. They went a little way up into the island, to a small uninhabited village where there were four or five houses, surrounded by a neat pavement. After resting about an hour here, they set forward to a town about half a mile distant, where a great many people of both sexes were assembled, and an entertainment prepared. Immediately after this, the women retired; and in a little, their attention was drawn to the sound of distress and weeping at a little distance; the voices appeared to be principally those of women; Raa Kook immediately led Mr Sharp from the company to the place whence the noise proceeded. They found a great multitude of women attending a dead corpse, which

which was neatly wrapped in a mat, and supported by four men; they kept up a constant lamentation, and were just about to lay it down, when the strangers joined them. The body was immediately deposited in the grave without any ceremony, while the men who had borne it on their shoulders, proceeded to cover it quickly with the dust. The women then kneeled down, and their cries increased so much, that they appeared as if they were anxious to tear up the very body again, which had been just buried. A heavy shower of rain obliged Mr Sharp to leave this interesting scene, to seek shelter, but he never could learn the cause of Raa Kook's behaviour on this occasion; as notwithstanding the uncommon regard he had for his late son, whose body they were convinced it was, he preserved the most profound

silence on the subject; nor did he appear particularly interested. The most probable conjecture they could form was, that he considered it to be below that dignity of mind which he on all occasions wished to support, to appear concerned on an occasion which generally produces those feelings that betray what they consider as human weaknesses.

The night proved very stormy, so they could not return to Pelew, but spent the evening with Raa Kook. In the morning Raa Kook carried Mr Sharp and the boatswain, to a little hut contiguous to the place where his son had been buried. Here they found only an old woman, to whom the General spoke for some time; she then went out, but returned in a little, bringing with her two old cocoa-nuts, some red ochre, and a bundle of beetle-nut
with

with the leaves. He took the coconuts and crossed them with the ochre, placing them one on each side by him; after which he repeated something to himself, which they supposed to be a prayer; he then crossed the beetle-nut in the same manner, and sat musing over it a little, when he gave them to the woman, who carried them out, as Mr Sharp supposed, to the grave; he wished to follow her, but as Raa Kook appeared under great agitation and not inclined to rise, he did not leave him, nor enquire farther.

Mr Sharp entertained his friends with the inspection of his watch and surgical instruments, with which they were greatly pleased, as well as with the description he gave them of the mode of amputation, &c.

Their countrymen they had left at Pelew were in great distress about their

absence; they had been witnesses to the funeral of another young man who had been slain in the same battle. As they were accidentally straggling thro' the fields about two miles from Pelew, they observed a great number of the natives going towards a village, with Abba Thulle at their head. They came to a large pavement, where the King was seated, and a great crowd surrounded him. Those who bare the corpse, moved slowly on before the King, who addressed them in a speech, probably recapitulating the qualifications of the deceased. This Eulogium he delivered with great solemnity, and the respectful silence of all around him, added a degree of affecting grandeur to the scene. The body was then carried to the grave, attended by women only, and thither Mr Matthias Wilson followed. He observed an aged woman
getting

getting out of the new made grave, whom he supposed to be the mother or some near relation of the deceased, who had been examining if every thing was properly prepared to her mind. The last offices they always commit to the women, as the men who are nearly interested or, relations, might be led to discover some exterior marks of grief, which they consider as derogatory to the dignity of manhood. Immediately on the body being laid in the grave, the women set up loud lamentations, as in the case of Raa Kook's son, and Mr Wilson left them.

Their graves are made in the same manner as in this country; some have a flat stone laid horizontally on the the grave, to prevent any person from trampling upon it. They have also particular spots of ground set apart for the purpose of burying their dead.

C H A P IV.

Disaster of the Vessel—Account of the Third Engagement—Captain Wilson's Visit to Rupacks—Abba Thulle Visits the English with his Wife and Daughter, &c.

THE Vessel was now considerably advanced, when an unlucky accident had nearly baulked their high raised expectations. One night the tide rose to a very uncommon height, and had nearly washed away the blocks from under her. At this time they were very short of hands; besides those at Pelew, three were very sick, so that the repairing the accident, and raising a strong bank to defend from any similar tide, took up several days. The weather was at this time very stormy and disagreeable, in so much, that some days they could not leave the tents to work.

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The jolly boat was dispatched to Pelew for provisions, and in three days returned, with the agreeable news that the English were safe returned to Pelew from the expedition to Artingall, which had been very successful; but Abba Thulle would not yet part with them, as he was anxious to shew them his gratitude, by entertaining them in the best manner he could. They now also brought with them, the ship's coppers, that some of the natives had carried off, on their first visit to the wreck; this coming to Raa Kook's knowledge he had ordered them to be returned, as he would by no means suffer any thing to be kept, that belonged to the English,

On Tuesday the 7th of October all the warriors returned, in high spirits with the entertainment they had met with at Pelew. They were attended
by

by Raa Kook, who brought with him two jars of moloffes and some excellent yams. They gave the following account of the third engagement.

“ The canoes were assembled and proceeded on the expedition in the same manner as formerly, but were much more numerous. On their arrival at Artingall, the same notice of the attack was sent, but no canoes were to be seen, nor any appearance of opposition. Raa Kook therefore took the command, and having landed the troops, led them up into the country; while Abba Thulle continued in his canoe, and dispatched his orders to the two commanders Raa Kook and Arra Kooker. They soon met the inhabitants, who defended themselves with the greatest resolution and bravery; the King entreated the English not to land, lest any of them should meet with harm; but they, ob-
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-serving their friends rather hotly handled, jumped on shore, attacked the enemy, and surrounded a house to which several of them had retreated. The musquets soon put them to flight, and set the house in flames; upon this one of the Pelew people, regardless of the danger, ran in among the flames, and snatching a burning faggot, carried it to another house, where many of the enemy had taken shelter, set it on fire, and returned safe to his companions. Abba Thulle publicly acknowledged his valour, by putting a string of beads in his ear, and afterwards creating him an inferior Rupack. The English were frequently in considerable danger from the spears of the enemy, which they showered upon them in great numbers; but they were soon dispersed by a round of musquets, by which many of them lost
their

their lives. Arra Kooker and Thomas Wilson made a very narrow escape; Arra had ascended the hill in pursuit of the enemy by much too far, when noticing one of the Artingall people coming down, he skulked among some bushes, till he was past; then running after him, fetched him such a blow with a wooden sword as immediately stunned him; but as he was dragging him prisoner to a canoe, Wilson luckily observed three or four of the enemy in pursuit of him; who would in all probability have killed him in a few minutes; he therefore immediately levelled his musquet at them, which they perceiving, instantly turned about and fled; this was a very fortunate circumstance, as although Wilson had presented his musquet, he could do no execution with it, his ammunition having been previously expended.

Five canoes were burnt in this engagement, and the causeway or landing place demolished. The only trophy of victory, the conquerors carried with them, was the large stone on which the king sat in council; a circumstance which naturally reminds a Briton, of the coronation stone, which Edward I. carried to London from Scone. Great rejoicings took place on their return to Pelew; though the untimely end of Raa Kook's son, with another blooming youth, who lost his life in the engagement, served to throw a damp on many."

About this time Mr Barker had a very severe fall, which confined him some days; but notwithstanding of the delays occasioned by sickness and accidents, the schooner advanced pretty quickly, so that by the middle of

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October

October her beams were all laid, and many of them secured.

Matters being in an agreeable train at Oroolong, Captain Wilson now resolved to pay a visit with Abba Thulle, to some of the neighbouring islands, his allies; he was attended by his son Henry Wilson, Tom Rose and Thomas Dutton. They left Oroolong in the morning of the 8th of October, along with their good friend Raa Kook; they reached Pelew by ten at night, where they were kindly received by Abba Thulle's eldest son QUI BILL; the King having set off only a little before for an island called Emung: Raa Kook proposed to Captain Wilson to follow him immediately, but as he found himself a good deal indisposed, he rather wished to spend the night at Pelew. They embarked next morning having in their party, two
wives

wives of Raa Kook's and Qui Bill. They steered about twelve leagues to the northward, and about noon were off the mouth of a rivulet which runs up into the island of Emungs. Raa Kook then sounded conch shells to notify their arrival. This rivulet they found very difficult to navigate, being both shallow and narrow, besides a number of sharp coral stones on the sides; so that the boatmen had frequently to get out and haul them up. They advanced upwards of a mile before they saw any houses or inhabitants, when upon the conch-shell being again sounded, four young men appeared, who soon retired precipitately as if terrified; in a little time however, a great number of the natives came to the water side, when Captain Wilson and Raa Kook landed, and were conducted to a large house, where

great multitudes furrounded them, gazing with much astonishment, on the strangers, whose colour and dress were so new to them; besides, their curiosity had been raised by the accounts of their valiant deeds in battle, of which they had heard. They remained here about half an hour, and then set forward to a large house or public building, about a quarter of a mile distant, where Abba Thulle, and a number of Rupacks were waiting their arrival. After spending about two hours there, they went to visit the Rupack of the town, an old infirm man; here they remained about half an hour, and had some boiled yams, fish, and sweet drink set before them; they ate a little and returned to the great house, where a great entertainment was waiting them. The company were divided into two parties; in the one were Abba Thulle,
Captain

Captain Wilfon and his attendants, and in the other Raa Kook, Qui Bill and others. Captain Wilfon here remarked, that nobody ventured to taste the meat, till the King had given the word, and in like manner none ventured to lie down for sleep, till he was covered with his mat.

After eating, the natives began a dance in their usual manner, which continued the whole night; they sung also a good deal, and as both men and women joined, they produced together a terrible noise. The English spent but a very uncomfortable night here; they had only rough uneven boards to lie on; and had they been more agreeably laid, the noise of the singing made it impossible to get any rest. These amusements continued part of next day; and in the afternoon, they were entertained with a mock fight betwixt two

of the natives, and a dance with spears in their hands, which continued about an hour; during this dance, the chief presented Captain Wilson with four different spears, and a curious wooden sword, inlaid with shell. Next day they had new dances, which however, were soon stopped by a terrible storm of thunder and lightning. The weather clearing up in the afternoon, the old Rupack was brought out to the large pavement, carried on a board slung with ropes on two poles, which were supported by four men. A piece of etiquette now took place, which the English did not understand; all the Rupacks seated themselves with much respect on the pavement, where the old Rupack sat, but Abba Thulle went to a little distance, and sat at the foot of a tree making the handle of a hatchet; his place was supplied among the Rupacks, by

Raa

Raa Kook who personated and spoke for him. Having conversed together for some time, the old Rupack distributed presents of beads among the rest. These beads are in general a kind of coloured earth, which they bake by a particular process which the English could not get an opportunity of seeing; some of the Pelew people however had made a parcel out of some bottles they had got from the Antelope, having turned them very neatly. The method of distributing these beads was as follows: the old Rupack gave some of them to one of his attendants, who went into the middle of the square, then mentioned the person for whom they were designed, pronounced an eulogium upon him, and running up to him, delivered them to him. After the Rupacks had got their share, Tom Rose was sent for Captain Willon, who was in the house
observing

observing the ceremony from a window; to him the old Rupack gave a string of red beads, and two tortoise-shell spoons. After this ceremony, they spent another hour in conversation together, when the old Rupack was carried back again on his board, and refreshments set before the Rupacks.

Captain Wilson took an opportunity of enquiring the reason of a number of human skulls being placed upon the outside of the doors, windows and ends of the great house, and was informed, that not many months before, while the principal people of Emungs were absent on a visit to a neighbouring island, the inhabitants of Artingall landed and attacked the town, putting to death such as could not make their escape; setting the houses on fire and destroying wherever they came; notice of this having reached Pelew, Abba Thulle

Thulle quickly assembled his canoes, and beset them unexpectedly; at the same time, the people of Eimungs returning from their visit, they so completely surrounded the Artingall people, that very few of them escaped; and those were the heads of some of the chiefs.

Captain Wilson having signified a wish to depart, next morning the couch-shell was founded, and the canoes assembled by day-break. About eight o'clock they embarked in company with one *Maath*, a Rupack of consequence in a northern island, who had eight or nine canoes in his retinue; they parted with him at the mouth of the rivulet. He carried with him the scarlet coat and spaniel dog which Captain Wilson had given Abba Thulle, in order to shew them to his countrymen, but they were afterwards returned to Pelew.

Pelew. Before his departure, he anxiously entreated Captain Wilson and his company to go with him, which they declined, as it would have detained them too long from Oroolong. They continued their route homewards very agreeably, till about ten o'clock, when a very violent storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied with a deluge of rain overtook them. The high wind soon dispersed the canoes, and the boatmen of that in which Captain Wilson was, having in vain endeavoured to steer on their way, agreed to make for the shore, which was done; and then kindled a fire by rubbing two sticks together. Raa Kook covered himself with his mat, and his two wives sheltered themselves under his boat cloak, at every flash of lightning, ejaculating what the English supposed to be a prayer. Captain Wilson observed on this
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and other occasions, that the natives of these islands had a peculiar dislike to their skins being wetted by rain, probably the spattering of a shower was disagreeable, for it could not proceed from any aversion to water, as they bathed every day. The weather cleared up about noon, when the companies of the different canoes met together and dined. They then walked up the country to a town named Aramalogoo, where they were kindly entertained. Before they embarked, Raa Kook expressed a desire to fire a musquet, which he had never done, and Captain Wilson humoured him; but holding it loosely, it struck his shoulder so forcibly, that it fell from his hands and he tumbled backwards. It astonished him to see the English fire it so easily, while he could neither hold it nor stand when fired.

They

They touched at a place called Emel-
ligree, which appeared to be a distinct
government. The Rupack, a lusty,
good-looking old man, sent them a for-
mal invitation to visit him, which they
did. Abba Thulle desired that all his
company should attend this Rupack,
but he himself kept by his canoe, pro-
bably from the same etiquette which
regulated his conduct at Emungs. At
this place they were treated with all
hospitality, not only in public, but at
several private houses; and were de-
tained so long that the inhabitants had
to conduct them to their canoes with
torches, for it was very dark.

It was ten o'clock before the canoe
in which Captain Wilson and his par-
ty were, arrived at Pelew; and as the
King was not yet come, none of the
natives would land; the English tho'
under no restraint, chose to shew their
politeness

politeness on this occasion, by waiting for him also. He soon arrived and spent this night with the English in the house by the water side. Next morning at breakfast, Abba Thulle informed Captain Wilson that he was directed by a Council, to request the assistance of his men in battle, yet once more. The Captain replied, that nothing could give him greater satisfaction than to be of any service to the Pelew people that lay in his power, but when he left Oroolong, so many of the men lay sick, that till he saw how they were, and conversed with his officers, he could not give a positive answer; with this they appeared very well satisfied, and about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, Captain Wilson and his party, with Raa Kook, set sail for Oroolong, where they arrived safe, about four o'clock.

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Among the first employments after Captain Wilson's return was Discipline. During his absence, the Cook had misbehaved exceedingly, appropriating great part of the small portion of the meat they were allowed, to himself and his assistant. As it was necessary, in their present situation, that the strictest discipline should be exercised, Captain Wilson, by a Court Martial, ordered him a *cobbing*. The native tenderness of Raa Kook's disposition appeared eminently on this occasion; when he saw the man stripped to the waist and his hands tied against a tree to keep him extended, he entreated Captain Wilson to let him off. The punishment of *cobbing* is inflicted by a thin flat piece of wood like a battle-dore; which Raa no sooner saw exercised, and the man bearing it patiently, than he was reconciled standing
by

by and encouraging him all the time. A Chinese was also punished in the same manner, for wounding one of his countrymen with a stone; but he roared and bellowed so lustily, that Raa Kook was greatly entertained with his cowardice.

The canoes now frequently touched at Oroolong with fish, so that the English had in general plenty of fresh provisions. On the 15th of October, three canoes landed, in one of which was a woman, the first they had yet seen at the cove. She went through the different works and surveyed every thing with great attention, but with great caution. The men that accompanied her did not land, nor could Captain Wilson conceive from whence they came; it was conjectured they were from Emilligree, as none of the English could recollect any of their countenances.

Abba Thulle arrived about ten o'clock on the 17th, with the agreeable news, that the Chief Minister of Artin-gall had been at Pèlew with offers of peace, which had been concluded upon, to the great joy of Raa Kook and the other natives. Abba Thulle brought his youngest daughter with him, named *Erre Bess*, of whom he appeared to be exceedingly fond; he conducted her through all the cove and explained the use of every thing with much attention. Besides her he also brought with him on this visit *Ludee*, one of his wives; a very beautiful woman, young, and greatly superior to any of the females they had hitherto seen; her genteel deportment and graceful step drew the attention of every beholder. She had with her eight or ten females, who were all escorted by Raa Kook, and shewn the forge, vessel, guns, tents and
other

other curiosities, with which they were greatly surpris'd. The King had also brought some of his artificers with him (or *Tacklebys*, as he called them) to observe the progress of the vessel, &c. he seem'd peculiarly anxious that they should pay attention to the schooner, which all ranks agreed in considering as the *ne plus ultra* of human workmanship. After their curiosity had been fully satisfi'd, the Captain prepar'd an entertainment for them in the tent, consisting principally of fish, and boiled rice, sweeten'd with molasses, of which they appear'd very fond.

A good deal of conversation took place on this visit between the King and Captain Wilson on various subjects. Abba Thulle acknowledg'd that the English musquets had now procur'd him peace with almost all his neighbours; he at same time request-

ed that the Captain would leave ten musquets with him when he left the island; this Captain Wilson told him would not be in his power, as Britain was at present engaged in war with several different nations, with whose vessels they might fall in on their return homeward, and so require defensive weapons; but he promised him five, which greatly pleased him. Abba Thulle then enquired what quantity of powder they had, but observing that Captain Wilson was not disposed to answer him readily, he very politely changed the subject. The Captain then desired he would assure his neighbouring islanders, that the English, deeply sensible of the kind usage they had received from the inhabitants of Pelew, were determined to return very soon, in a much larger ship, and with a greater number of men, and fully avenge any insult
that

that might be offered to the Pelewites, either by the people of Artingall, or any other island.

Agreeable to a former promise of Captain Wilson's, Abba Thulle then informed him, he had come at this time to get the guns from the wreck, which should either be placed at Oroolong or Pelew, as the English pleased; Captain Wilson having previously consulted his officers, desired him to take them all to Pelew, except one, which they might perhaps need in the schooner. Accordingly, next day, the King ordered some of his people to go to the wreck in order to remove them. Having no tackle, they found it a very difficult jobb, and were forced to send for ten of our people to assist them; the Englishmen speedily lodged them in the canoes to the surprize of the natives, who could not conceive it possible to handle
these

these heavy pieces with such apparent ease.

The King lodged at the back of the island, carrying with him all his attendants, that the English might be as little interrupted by them as possible. He had not been long there, when he sent for Captain Wilson to give him ten large fish, part of a quantity his people had taken; of these he would only receive four, which would fully supper all his people, and such is the nature of the climate there, that no fish will keep fresh above five or six hours. The King then ordered the remaining six to be dressed for keeping, and sent to the cove in the morning. Their method of cleaning and dressing them is as follows; the fish is first well cleaned, washed, and all the scales taken off; then two sticks are placed lengthways of the fish, in order to keep it straight,

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in the same manner as sticks are placed across salmon in this country when kippering; it is then bound round with broad plantain leaves, and smoked over a slow fire. In this state it will be eatable for at least two days, though not very pleasant.

In the morning, the ears of the English were saluted with the noise of singing in the woods, which proved to be Raa Kook and his attendants coming across the country, with the six dried fish, which were very acceptable. This morning the King went to the wreck, and returned to the cove, and breakfasted on tea with Captain Wilson, three Artingall people being also of the party. After breakfast, the strangers were led through the works, and their surprise was nothing inferior to any that had yet been expressed; the guns particularly interested them, as
the

the means by which so many of their countrymen died, in a manner then incomprehensible. In a few days they had a farther opportunity of seeing the effects of the musquets, by Mr Benger's killing some pigeons while on wing, they run to the carcases, and examined them very attentively, and upon noticing the wounds, observed, it was with such holes as these their countrymen died; on this occasion the Pelewites seemed to exult a little over their neighbours, on the ignorance which they shewed of the use of fire arms. The People of Artingall however retained no animosity on this account but seemed quite happy and at ease.

Captain Wilson had now occasion to complain to Abba Thulle of a theft which had been committed by some of his people, a cooper's adze and a caulking iron being amissing; the latter he
recovered

recovered immediately, but the adze he found had been carried to Pelew.

On Monday the 20th the King went again to the wreck, and in his absence a message was sent by Raa Kook to Captain Wilson, informing him that he was very bad, and wished much to see the Captain and Mr Sharp. They went immediately to see their good friend, whom they found much distressed with a large boil on his arm, which was attended with a considerable degree of fever. Mr Sharp dressed it with care, and found him much better on his return in the evening, when the King was present, and expressed great thankfulness for the attention paid to his brother; Abba Thulle appeared very much interested for his recovery, and on every occasion manifested the highest concern about all his relations and friends. Captain Wilson observed

ved when there in the forenoon, that Raa Kook was attended by his wives, who appeared greatly agitated; their breasts were scratched and bleeding, by means of a prickly leaf, which they applied very smartly, in order to testify their concern.

During Abba Thulle's residence on Oroolong, the English were regularly supplied with fresh and dried fish, which were very acceptable; among the rest were some Kima Cockles, so famous throughout Europe for their beautiful shells. Another unknown animal was observed about this time, somewhat similar to our batt, but four times its size; it runs along the ground, climbs trees and leaps from branch to branch with great alertness; besides which, it has wide extended wings, and flies rapidly. It is esteemed a nice dish at Pelew, and like the
pigeon,

pigeon, sacred for chiefs only. On the 21st Abba Thulle came round to the cove on his way to Pelew. He asked Captain Wilson if the English would assist him in battle once more, to which Captain Wilson readily agreed. He then told him that there would be a grand council held at Pelew on the subject the next day, the result of which he would communicate; on this account Raa Kook would not remain behind, though far from well, his presence being necessary in council. The King then informed the Captain, that he would send him a quantity of paint for their vessel, and desired the jolly boat might be sent for it; this was done, and a quantity sent, much more than sufficient for their purpose. It consisted of red and yellow ochre, being all the natural paints of the country; the King sent a strict charge to pre-

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serve

serve the baskets, in which the colours were packed, from wet; and informed, that men would be sent proper for painting the vessel, on their return from the proposed expedition. Mr Devis, Tom Rose, and another of the English people went with the King to Pelew, and remained there till the 24th, in which time Abba Thulle had made still farther enquiries at them as to some particulars concerning which he wished to be informed, particularly as to the nations with whom Captain Wilson had mentioned the English were at war.

By the 26th of October the vessel was breamed and the outside caulking completed. The same day, a number of strangers touched at the cove, in ten canoes; they proved to be friends to Abba Thulle, on their way to join his fleet. It appeared they had previously

ously heard of the English, and by that means were not so much surpris'd on seeing them; yet they were greatly entertained with the various works, through which they were conducted. Their chief was an elderly man, and spent the greater part of the time they were on shore in Captain Wilson's tent; finding a book on his table, he was much pleas'd with the appearance of it, and entertained himself by reckoning the number of leaves in it, a task which he could not accomplish, having frequently proceeded the length of fifty, but could not go further.

Mr Sharp now paid a visit to Raa Kook, to enquire after his health, and was happy to find him much better. One of the surgeons at Pelew had cut the core of the boil, and the surrounding flesh with one of their knives. When we consider the nature of the in-

strument with which all their surgical operations are performed, and that all their knowledge consists in cutting out the part affected, one cannot avoid feeling for the pain, or rather torture, which those must endure, who are so unhappy as to need their assistance. Perhaps they may now be enabled to execute their operations with somewhat less pain, as the English distributed a few twopenny knives among them. Mr Sharp re-dressed Raa Kook's sore, and left several dressings, with proper directions for application. His visit to the General was considered as very flattering, and warmly recommended him not to the friends of his patient only, but to all the island, who were particularly fond of Raa Kook.

In the afternoon of Monday, the 27th of October, Abba Thulle, arrived at Oroolong, with a great number
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of canoes in his train; they formed the third grand division of the fleet, which altogether consisted of upwards of 300 canoes. They sailed in good order and made a very formidable appearance. The following ten men prepared to go on this expedition; Mr Matthias Wilson, Thomas Wilson, William Roberts, Thomas Dutton, Nicholas Tyacke, Madan Blanchard, Thomas Whitfield, John Duncan, Jas. Swift and William Steward. Immediately on the King landing he was informed the men were ready; upon which they all embarked, the English on shore giving them three cheers, which they in concert with the natives returned very warmly.

C H A P V.

Expedition to Pelelew—Visit from Abba Thulle—
Launching of the Schooner—Presents to the King—
Preparations for Departure—Captain Wilson made a
Rupack—Blanchard's Determination to Remain—
Proposal for Lee Boo returning with the English—
other Proceedings previous to Sailing.—

THE Armament were scarcely out of sight, when a very furious storm arose at Oroolong, which distressed them all exceedingly; not only on account of the danger their vessel and tents were in, but the apprehensions they reasonably entertained for the safety of their absent friends. They were however soon relieved; on Thursday the 30th October about midnight, their companions having been only gone about three days, a canoe was observed coming towards the harbour, and the crew calling out *Englees*, they were permitted

mitted to land. In this canoe, came Arra Kook, and the surgeon's *fucalic*, or friend, the news of whose arrival soon raised the English from their beds to hear some account of their friends. The original cause of the contest with the natives of Pelelew it seems had been, their refusing to deliver up two people that had been saved from the Malay wreck; immediately therefore, on Abba Thulle's appearing on their coast, the enemy laid down their weapons, offered presents, and delivered up the two *Malay-men*. Next day, these agreeable tidings were confirmed by the return of the party, who gave the following account of the expedition.

“ They met with very bad weather the first night, and were obliged to land on an uninhabited island, about four leagues distant from Pelelew, where they erected temporary huts. Next day two
different

different parties went on an excursion to a neighbouring island, where they terrified the natives, and pillaged a little. Abba Thulle then called a council, in consequence of which Arra Kooker set off next morning to Pelelew, and concluded the peace. On his return in the afternoon, the English were informed, that in the present situation of affairs it would be derogatory to his dignity to approach l'elelew, but if they had any wish to see the island, Arra Kooker would attend them. This offer was accepted, having previously entered into a bargain, to keep close together, in case of treachery on the part of the Pelelewans. They were attended by a great number of the Pelelew people, and highly entertained with the island. They found the country pleasant and fertile; the land appeared nearly level, and the houses were large
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and better constructed than those at Pelew: The natives seemed to be friendly and humane, and they shewed a very marked respect to our countrymen, although the object of their visit had been to spread devastation. Indeed the natives of Pelew discovered a degree of rancour against these Pelelewans rather inconsistent either with their character or practice; the English were ready to think they had been stimulated to it by the Malay, in order to get his two friends out among them.

Abba Thulle made a very short stay at Oroolong, as did even Raa Kook; they returned to Pelew accompanied by the King of Pelelew. This Rupack was an elderly man, and of a stern rough appearance; his hair was grey, and his beard tapered to a narrow point. The only other singularity about him, from the people of Pelew was, his being

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ing tatoored quite up to the navel, while their tatooring did not exceed the middle of their thighs. Mr Sharp with four of the men set off the day following for Pelew, in order to bring over some molosses promised them by Raa Kook. He mentioned that the usual rejoicings had taken place at Pelew on the happy termination of this expedition; and songs were composed on the occasion in which these words could be distinguished, "*Englees*,—Weel a *Trecoy*" (very good); and in a particular manner *Tom Rose* was celebrated in them. This agreable jocose young man, acted as an interpreter on all occasions, and had made himself a favourite among the natives.

About this time Captain Wilson intimated a wish to his officers and crew, that they would agree to a few days being spent in navigating round the
shores

shores of this cluster of islands, where they had spent so many weeks with a degree of comfort and satisfaction, far surpassing their most sanguine expectations. He told them they were the first Europeans who had hitherto visited them, and as human nature was here to be seen in an attire, she had never assumed, so far as he had heard, it would be acceptable to their Employers, and a service to mankind, to spend some little time in visiting the other islands at which they had not yet touched; he said that Abba Thulle would cheerfully give them all the assistance in his power, and it was a task which could easily be overtaken. But however plausible the scheme, it was approved by none—the fear of being engaged in hostilities with some of those islands to which they were strangers; the danger of encountering sea storms in small canoes;

noes; and above all, the protracting the anxiously expected hour when they should again set sail for their native country, determined them all to entreat the Captain to lay aside the scheme; which he accordingly did.

Meanwhile the vessel advanced apace, and a consultation was held, to fix on the safest method of launching her, which was agreed to be lay ways. They had neither pitch nor rosin to pay her with; this want, necessity, the mother of invention, taught them to supply by burning coral stone into a lime; then sifting it thoroughly, they mixed it up with greafe, and found in it an excellent succedaneum.

THE Reader will not have followed his countrymen thus far, and seen Providence rescuing them from the jaws

of death, and fostering them in these to us unknown regions, without feeling his heart warmed in no common degree to the friendly islanders, by whom they were protected; yet it is now necessary to unfold a scene on the part of the English, which without well weighing the accompanying circumstances, he will be ready to censure as ungrateful, ungenerous, and cruel. Instances of such noble sentiments of liberality, uncontrouled by art or interest, and continued so long, are so very rare even in civilized nations, that the minds of several of the English were ready to take alarm at the smallest accident, lest all this overflow of kindness, should only be to lull them in security, till they should in the first place serve their own ends by them, and then more effectually cut them off. A message from the King at this time,

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informing

informing that he proposed paying them a visit in a few days, and remaining with them till their departure, gave the first alarm; but on Tuesday November the 4th, two canoes being observed off the harbour, towards night, and neither of them coming in, it was instantly concluded that they were spies, and that the natives, conscious of the value of their aid in battle, intended to prevent their departure. Every precaution was therefore made for a vigorous defence, in spite of the eloquence of Captain Wilson, who insisted that it was a degree of injustice to entertain even a suspicion of a people so hospitable, and a prince so generous and condescending. He ridiculed the idea of defence, supposing the natives really meant to detain them, as the ammunition was nearly expended, and the natives could so easily cut
off

off their fresh water. These and many other arguments equally forcible availed nothing; it was determined that every one should be on his guard; that the swivels and six pounder should be loaded with grape shot, the small arms charged with ball, and the cartouch boxes loaded with cartridges, and lest they might be overpowered with numbers, it was agreed to single out the chiefs for the bayonet or musquet, with a view to dismay and disperse the multitude. There is not one circumstance in all this narrative, which is more disagreeable to relate, than what common fidelity requires to be now mentioned; that the amiable and princely Abba Thulle, the humane, benevolent Raa Kook, and the jocular, entertaining and warm hearted Arra Kooker, were to have been the first victims of this phrenzy; not that the

English were deadened to every sense of honour, gratitude, and generosity; but when the precious cup of liberty was now almost at their lips, the dread of its being yet wrenched from them, however groundless the idea, wrought so powerfully as to absorb, *for a moment*, every principle of honour.—

Happy are we to say, it was but for a little time, that these ungenerous sentiments prevailed: the reflection of a night greatly moderated them, and by morning light, there were none of the company who did not feel, in some degree, the force of what Captain Wilson had alledged the preceding night; yea many among them blushed at the appearance they had made to one another, discovering the weakness of human nature, when struggling between the hopes of returning to their native country

country, and the dread of perpetual detention.

Agreeable to a previous promise he had made to the King, Captain Wilson dispatched the jolly boat to Pelew, on the morning of the 6th of November, under the direction of Mr Sharp and Mr Matthias Wilson, who carried along with them, all the iron and tools they could spare. They were desired to inform Abba Thulle, that until the vessel was completely finished, they could not spare him the musquets, nor any more tools, but in the mean time, they hoped to have the pleasure of a visit from him, as they expected to be ready to sail in a few days; they were also desired to express in the warmest manner, the high sense the English entertained of the unbounded kindness they had received, which they were determined publicly to declare on their

return to Britain. While Captain Wilson was talking with his ambassadors about this message, Madan Blanchard entered the apartment in quest of some tools he wanted ; and immediately took the opportunity of desiring Tom Rose, who was to be of the party, to inform the King that he was determined to stay behind and reside at Pelew ; upon the Captain ridiculing his message, he solemnly declared that he would not embark with them. Many attempts were made to convince him of the impropriety of such a step, but all in vain ; mean time, the Captain ordered that this circumstance should not be mentioned at present, and the boat departed. By Captain Wilson's desire, Blanchard's companions used every argument in their power to divert him from a scheme so very imprudent in every point of view ; but he informed them
his

his mind was resolved. The idea of deserting his comrades suggested itself on his return from the first expedition against Artingall, and he then mentioned it; at the same time adding, that he would cheerfully join in their daily labours, with the same diligence and perseverance as any of them; but that he had resolved to end his days at Pelew, without again encountering the conflicting elements at sea. Having formed no particular connection with any females, they looked upon him as in jest, but he never altered his resolution.

Next day the boat returned from Pelew, having in company, the King, his young favourite daughter, Raa Kook and several chiefs of distinction; they had been impeded by a storm; and as was formerly noticed, though these people go perfectly naked, and frequently

quently bathe, they fly to shelter from a storm of rain, with the eagerness of an English Beau, to preserve a new or fashionable coat. The Englishmen in the pinnace fell in with the Pelew company in their canoes during the storm, and accompanied them to the island of Pethoull, where they spent the night together. The ladies who were of the party, expressed not a little disappointment in being obliged to halt a night by the way, as they were very impatient to see the launch at Oroolong. They supped together very cheerfully, when there was again opportunity of remarking, that no one presumed to eat till the monarch had pronounced the word *Munga*, that is *Eat*, upon which a signal is given to the attendants without, when all begin to eat together. Each one's share was portioned out on a plantain leaf, which
served

served for a plate; though on great occasions they use a sort of dish made of tortoise-shell, and others of earthenware and wood; they cut their meat with a knife made of split bamboo, with which they carve very decently.

Mess. Sharp and Wilson now presented the King with the iron tools, which were very graciously received, they explained the method of using them, to which Raa Kook paid particular attention; the Malay took this opportunity of hinting, that the English had not sent the musquets they had promised; to this Raa Kook with great indignation in his countenance, replied, that they had sent all they had promised to send, previous to their departure, of which they had given due notice; that this insinuation, was like the former, whereby he had nearly effected a difference between them: the
discredit

discredit which this behaviour brought upon the Malay, not with Raa Kook only, but all the chiefs, quite disconcerted him; and he retired in confusion.

The order in which the company sat during this night's entertainment, is worthy notice. The house in which they were was in one large apartment, torches were lighted, and stuck in betwixt the boards of the floor, in a line through the centre of the room; and the company sat in rows with their backs to the light.

When ready to retire for rest, the servants brought in the mats, and fires being lighted to defend from the musquitoes, the torches were extinguished, and all was silence. This however was interrupted about two or three in the morning by the arrival of a messenger, who was introduced to the King. This
they

they afterwards learned was a message from some of the neighbouring islands enquiring the time of the departure of the English. The method which Abba Thulle used to send his answer, is very noticeable, he took a string, and put as many knots upon it as there were days to the time. This enquiry at first sounded rather disagreeable to the English, but it afterwards proved to be a fresh instance of their kindness, as they only wished to know, for the purpose of contributing to their sea store.

Next morning proved calm, and they set sail; the King and daughter, Raa Kook and another chief, went with the English in the pinnace; a sudden squall arising nearly overset most of the canoes, but the pinnace, sailed very easily to the great satisfaction of Abba Thulle, who was mightily pleased
to

to hear that Captain Wilson proposed leaving her with him.

Immediately on his arrival, Abba Thulle ordered his men to proceed in painting the vessel, which they did. Raa Kook assisted himself in the operation, under the immediate direction of the King. The stern was the place which he decorated with all his art; in particular he was at pains with two circles, some ornaments, hanging from them, the particular intention of which the English never discovered. In the afternoon, the ship was lowered off the blocks upon the ways; but being too much over to one side, was swept with a rope, and to bouse her over, a tackle got upon it. The King attentive to their proceedings fetched a long pole, to apply as a lever to heave the vessel over; but, on a hint being given that it was wrong, he desisted; she was easily
got

got upon the ways, and every thing being ready, the next morning was appointed for the important launch. The King now sat down near the scene of bustle; and after a short conversation with his brother and the chiefs, ordered it to be signified to Captain Wilson, that it was his request he would change the name of the ship to that of the Ooroolong, in remembrance of the island, and the people. A ready concurrence being universally given, the good prince appeared more than commonly happy. The Captain being told that Blanchard was coming to offer himself to the Pellew King, determined to make a merit of necessity, and therefore signified to Abba Thulle, that as a return for the hospitality with which the English had been treated, they would leave one of their comrades with him, as a perpetual resident, who was qualified to ma-

nage the great guns and other things, beyond their comprehension. The idea was by no means thrown away; the King was gratified beyond measure.

This night Blanchard spent with the King, and was well entertained. He promised to make him a Rupack, to give him a house and plantations, and allow him two wives. All the crew regretted much to part with Blanchard; his agreeable behaviour made him beloved by his companions, who lost no opportunity to speak in his behalf to the natives. This resolution of his, however, was inexplicable; as it is difficult to conjecture what motives could urge him to forsake that class of mankind among whom he had hitherto lived, and be separated from them perhaps for ever. As Abba Thulle, Raa Kook and the natives in general, considered his remaining among them as a very great compliment,

compliment, they were resolved to make him happy; and there is great probability, he now lives among them in a situation not only comfortable but respectable. Meantime the reader probably looks forward with anxiety to the return of these ships, which it is expected have ere this, paid a visit to these islands, in hopes of hearing somewhat concerning the future fortunes of this young man. He was only about twenty years of age when left there.

Abba Thulle desired Captain Wilson and his officers to point out to him a proper spot about the cove, where he meant to plant some cocoa-nuts and yams, for the refreshment of the English on their next visit. This was done accordingly, and it was observed, that upon the grain being put in the ground, the person planting muttered a few words to himself. An attempt was also made

to launch the vessel this afternoon but in vain.

We come now to contemplate a scene peculiarly interesting. Next morning (Sunday the 9th of October) the English proceeded before day-break to make ready for the launch; it need scarcely be mentioned, that uncommon pains were taken to put every thing in the most favourable train for getting her afloat. About seven the King and attendants were desired to be present, and in a little time the vessel was agreeably launched, to the general joy of every spectator. Never was there a more affectingly happy scene.—Every eye seemed to sparkle with a lustre borrowed for the occasion.—Every countenance looked animating joy and heartfelt satisfaction; but few among them could utter their feelings: looks of congratulation circulated around, while every

every one shook his neighbour's hand with warmest fervour. Home, wives, parents, children, friends—all—all—seemed as within grasp—but description is unequal to this task. Let not however the behaviour of their Pelew friends be forgotten; in their joy which was also unbounded, real philanthropy was to be seen—They saw by this occurrence, those friends whom they valued about to leave them; those friends by whom they had been so much benefited, and from whom they had learned so much—but they saw them happy—they knew their whole comfort depended upon the success of this event, and therefore their benevolent hearts participated in the general joy.

After a very happy breakfast indeed, they proceeded to carry every thing aboard with all possible expedition, and in the afternoon, the flood tide coming

in, the ship was hauled into the bafon, a deep place of four or five fathom water; and in the courfe of the day, they got on board all the provifions, ftokes, &c. fuch only excepted as were to be given in prefents to the King; and in the morning took on board their anchors, cables, and other neceffaries, making bitts, and fitting a rail acrofs the ftern of the veffel.

Abba Thulle being now at the watering-place, fent for Captain Wilfon to attend him; on whose arrival it was intimated to him, that the Rupacks had determined to inveft him with the order of the BONE, and to create him a Rupack of the firft rank; an honour which Captain Wilfon faid, he confidered in a very flattering point of view, and would receive with much joy. We fhall mention this ceremony of invefting with the BONE with fome minuteneffs,

minuteness, as it is a distinction never obtained without the most unequivocal pretensions to merit, in the field, in the council, or in domestic life; and is esteemed a supreme felicity by the distinguished candidate. Some may be ready to smile, and ridicule the simplicity with which these children of nature, stamp this simple ceremony with so much consequence; but it were happy for European nations, if their marks of honour were as carefully conferred, and as surely indicated true merit in the possessor. The glaring ceremony with which the order of the Star and Garter or the dignity of a Peerage is conferred in Britain, does not convey more honourable sentiments of the distinguished object to the beholders, than this simple unadorned badge of honour does at Pelew; nay there, perhaps it may be justly said, the prospect of the

BONE,

BONE, excites more emulation, inspires greater courage, and more frequently promotes virtue and commands respect, than the embroidered star or tinfelled ribbon do in Britain.

The King and Rupacks having retired to the shade of some trees, they enquired at Captain Wilson of which arm he made most general use, which having found to be the right, they took a circular bone, prepared for the purpose, through which, with a good deal of trouble they compressed his hand; after it had been fairly passed over the joints of the hand, and fixed on the wrist, the King addressed him nearly as follows. *“ You are now invested with our highest mark of honour, and this Bone, the signal of it, you will carefully keep as bright as possible, rubbing it every day; this high mark of dignity must always be valiantly defended, nor suffered to be wrested*
from

from you but with your life." He was then complimented by his brother chiefs, on being admitted into their order; and the inferior natives, flocking round, shouted aloud to the *Englees Rupack*.

Monday the 10th, the old dwellings at the cove were cleared, and all the necessaries carried on board. The wondering natives so thronged the vessel, that they were obliged to complain to Raa Kook, who got orders from the King, that none but Rupacks, should go on board; but that the multitude might observe her, at some little distance in their canoes. As soon as the sails were bent, they took her to the west side of the island, and moored her in six fathom water. An immense concourse of natives followed in their canoes, hallooing and shooting in a most joyous manner. The King's two brothers accompanied

accompanied them, who repeatedly called to their people to be minute in observing the management of the ship; as if, at some period, they expected to have one of their own. After this the Captain went on shore to the King, who was waiting for him at Oroolong. Abba Thulle now resumed the subject of sending two of his people to England: he told the Captain, by means of the interpreter, that he had the happiness of being much respected by all his subjects, not only as being superior in rank, but in mental capacity; but notwithstanding, he had often felt his own insignificance, in seeing the meanest Englishman, exercise talents of which he had no conception; and had therefore resolved to part with his youngest son, Lee Boo, who should, in company with one of the Malays, as an attendant, be entrusted to Captain
Wilfon's

Wilson's care, that he might be instructed in such sciences as would tend, on his return, to advance the prosperity of the people, and reflect honour on the royal family. This youth, he said, was of a mild, pliable temper, and an enemy to every kind of vice; he was under the care of an old man who lived at some distance; but had orders to be at Oroolong in the morning. Captain Wilson replied, that this mark of his regard and esteem affected him deeply, and he should ever think of his confidence with pride; he assured Abba Thulle, that any person belonging to Pelew would meet with attention from him, but the son of the man to whom he had been so much indebted, he held himself engaged by every tie, to treat with the same tenderness as his own son.

Nor;

Nor were these the only persons who wished to accompany the English; for some time an uncommon gloom had obscured Raa Kook's chearful countenance, which seemed to increase as the hour approached when he was to part with his beloved *Englees*. It was afterwards discovered, that so great was his attachment to the English, that he had asked permission of his brother, the King, to accompany them home; this however could not be granted, as Abba Thulle reminded him, he was next to him in command, and in case of death his successor; that therefore it would be exceedingly imprudent in him to attempt it. A nephew of the King's at same time made application to the same purpose; it was his brother who was slain at Artingall as before-mentioned. This young man urged his suit to Captain Wilson with great importunity, but

but the Captain declined till he had obtained permission from his uncle. Captain Wilson conversed Abba Thulle on the subject; he replied, that the young man was unworthy of his protection, having rendered himself disagreeable throughout the island. At the same time, the young man appearing to plead his own cause, the King sternly addressed him nearly to the following purport. *“ You are undutiful to your aged mother, and though you have deserving wives, you use them ill. Your vile conduct has been publicly exposed, and now you would fly from the resulting shame! Remain where you are; be ashamed of your conduct, and reform.”*

Abba Thulle now modestly hinted a request to Captain Wilson, that before he set sail, he would sail round in his new vessel to Pelew; he particularly mentioned that many aged people there

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had

had never yet seen their vessel, &c. and were very anxious to do so; he said it would not detain them long, and be very agreeable to all his people. The Captain at once conceived that this proposal would be very disagreeable to his men, and perhaps revive their former suspicions, he therefore suggested such objections as satisfied the King that the step would be improper.

The weather and wind appearing favorable, the Captain informed Abba Thulle, that they purposed sailing the next day. This very much distressed him; we have formerly mentioned the embassy which had been sent him at Pethoull, in answer to which he had sent word that the day following that now mentioned by the Captain, was the day the English meant to sail, in consequence of which all the neighbouring Rupacks were to come to O-roolong

roolong the next night to furnish them with provisions, and bid them farewell. This information determined the Captain still more to set sail in the forenoon, as the number of canoes to be expected, would greatly incommode them, he therefore apologised in the best manner he could to the King, who appeared greatly disappointed. He then begged that the Captain and officers would dine with him and his brothers on shore. With this they cheerfully complied, and after dinner Arra Kooker so pathetically begged for the favourite dog, of which he had become excessively fond, that they could not resist his solicitations, though it would prove a particular regret among the sailors. But the general's intention was far otherwise employed, he was already building a ship in imagination; and to realize his design, wished them to leave their

launching ways, saying he would go to work on the same place. The King had laughed at the insignificance of Arra Kooker's request of the dog; but the subject of ship-building caught his most serious attention; it was of national importance, and of course demanded the patronage of a good prince. In the midst of their discourse a battle on board the ship between two sailors, called for the presence of the Captain: the damage proved no greater than a bloody nose, which being settled, Mr Wilson again returned. When the circumstance was explained to the King, he observed that there were no doubt bad men in all countries. The English permission was asked, and obtained, to hoist an English pendant on a tree near the cove, with an inscription as follows, on copper, to be placed on another tree adjacent:

THE

THE HONOURABLE
ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SHIP
THE ANTELOPE,

HENRY WILSON, COMMANDER,

Was lost upon the Reef north of this Island,
In the Night between the 9th and 10th of August;
Who here built a Vessel,
And sailed from hence the 12th of November 1783.

Captain Wilson explained the purport of this inscription to Abba Thulle who was greatly pleased with it; and having explained it to his people, he assured the English, that it should carefully stand there in remembrance of their visitors.

The conversation this day was principally confined to the approaching separation. "When you are gone," said the King, "I much dread that the Artingalls will redouble their attempts against me; and deprived of your aid, I shall probably feel the effects of that animosity they have always had to-

wards my people; and having no more the English to support me, I will not be match for them, unless you leave the few musquets you promised me."

The Captain was quite satisfied to comply with the request immediately; but most of the officers who still had apprehensions, were unwilling to give up the arms till the last moment; that unlucky suspicion which had so ungenerously taken possession of them, had been so rivetted in their minds, that it was not easily dislodged. It is necessary however, not to condemn our countrymen too hastily; they had been accustomed to see roguery so generally, and so scientifically practised, that distrust and suspicion are naturally instilled among the first principles of education; and it was not easy for them to conceive, that the same species should be so very different even at opposite quarters

quarters of the globe; but here they saw, the open undisguised actions of nature, knowing no deceit and dreading none.

Abba Thulle was too quick sighted not to observe their distrust; and it is not easy to express the agitation which laboured in his breast, on finding that doubts were harboured of his sincerity. "Why," said he, "should you distrust me? I never refused you my confidence. If my intentions had been hostile, you would have known it long ago, being entirely in my power: but on the contrary, you have had my utmost assistance; and yet at the very last you suspect me of bad designs!" The earnestness of his manner, spoke his feelings more than his words; nor need it be doubted, that a little recollection brought the blush into the countenances of those whom he addressed. The
man

man who had uniformly behaved with such disinterested, unsuspecting benevolence—the man who freely committed his own son to their care, to be doubted within a few hours of their parting, was a stab, which the sensibility of Abba Thulle could not support: the severity and truth of his reproach, and the noble dignity with which he supported himself, brought the daring thought of butchering him and his brothers to view, and gave a most captivating picture of the mild, yet forcible triumph of virtue. They found themselves guilty, and saw evidently that virtue will flourish in whatever soil she is implanted. Without further hesitation, they went on board for all the arms that could be spared; and on the boat's return presented him with five musquets, five cutlasses, more than half a barrel of gun powder and
flints

flints and ball in proportion. Once more harmony was restored, and the generous Abba Thulle forgot, or seemed to forget, the cruelty of their suspicions.

The King's second son, Lee Boo, arrived in the evening from Pelew, under the care of his elder brother: Abba Thulle presented him to the Captain, and then to the officers; he advanced in so easy and polite a manner, having much good humour and forcible expression in his aspect, that every one was prepossessed in his favour. As it was now getting dark, the officers went on board, leaving the Captain behind, at the King's request. Next day Mr Wilson informed them, that neither he, the King, nor the Rupacks, enjoyed much rest; the affectionate father employing the moments in giving advice to his son, and in recommending him to the
care

care of the Captain; not, however, from the smallest fear that he would be ill-treated: "I would wish you," said he, "to shew my son every thing that is useful, and make him an Englishman. The fine things he will see may probably induce him to slip away from you, in search of less confined gratification; but I beg that you will contrive to calm and subdue the rashness and impetuosity of his youth. I well know from the different countries he must pass through, that he will be liable to dangers, and even to diseases that we never heard of, which may kill him; but I also know, that death is the common lot; and whether he dies with you, or at Pelew, is of no moment. I know you are a man of humanity; and am therefore confident that if my son be sick, you will look on him with kindness. But should
that

that happen, which your utmost care cannot prevent, let it not deter you or your brother, or any of your countrymen, from returning; for I shall rejoice at the sight." The Captain assured the King, that he might rest satisfied of the care and affection with which his son would be treated.—Before Mr Wilson came on board, he admonished Blanchard (the man who had resolved to renounce his country) as to his conduct among the natives; he desired him to be watchful of the arms and ammunition that would be left behind, that they might defend themselves from their enemies; he begged him not to go naked, like the natives, as it might lessen his importance with them as an Englishman, and countenance an evident indecency; and that he might have no excuse from the want of cloaths, all that could be spared was left him; in
order

order, also, that if he accepted the King's offer of wives, he might be enabled to dress them somewhat after his own custom. The Captain did not forget to enforce on him the absolute necessity of continuing his religious duties, and to be particular in keeping Sunday on Sabbath. After this, he was requested to ask any favour that might tend to his future comfort; on which he begged to have one of the ship's compasses, and the masts, sails, and oars belonging to the pinnace, which also was intended to be left behind.

Wednesday morning early, an English jack was hoisted at the mast-head of the Oroolong, and a swivel fired as a signal for sailing; which being explained to the King, he ordered all the provisions on board, which he had brought for our voyage. A great number of canoes surrounded the vessel,
loaded

loaded with presents, so that it was with difficulty they could avoid being overstocked. When just ready for sea, a boat was sent on shore for the Captain, who then took Blanchard and the men of the boat, into a temporary hut that had been erected; and, making them kneel, offered up thanksgivings to that Power who had supported their fainting spirits through so many hazards and toils, and had at last opened to them the door of deliverance. He repeated his advice to Blanchard, earnestly begging him not to forget his religion.

When Lee Boo came to the watering-place, there were sent with him three or four dozen of a very fine fruit, similar to the English apple; it is of a fine crimson colour and oblong shape: this is a very rare fruit at Pelew, though there are plenty of them in the differ-

ent South Sea Islands. One of them was given to every officer, and the remainder kept for Lee Boo.

About eight o'clock, the Captain went on board, attended by Abba Thulle, Lee Boo, the Rupacks and Blanchard. It being doubtful as the vessel was heavily laden with provision, whether, she would be able to get over the reef, it was resolved to land the two six pounders and leave the jolly boat behind, as they had nothing wherewith to repair her, and she was almost worn out; in her room Abba Thulle was at great pains to procure them a proper canoe.

Captain Wilson had recommended Mr Sharp the surgeon to Lee Boo as his *Sucalic* or friend, and the young man stuck by him, with the greatest attention, attending him to whatever part of the vessel he moved, as his

Mentor

Mentor on all occasions. Blanchard now got into his pinnace, in order to take the vessel in tow, and parted from his old ship-mates with as much composure, as if they were to meet again after a short absence; he shook hands with them with the same indifference, as if they were about to sail down the Thames on a coasting voyage—a striking contrast to what followed!

The vessel now proceeded towards the reef, deeply laden with Abba Thulle's bounty to a degree of superfluity, and surrounded by great numbers of the natives in their canoes, who had every man brought his present, for their good friends the *Englees*—What a luxurious sight to a feeling heart!—There was no room for them, yet every one exclaimed, *only this from me, only this from me*, and if refused, they repeated their requests with supplicating

R 2 countenances.

countenances and tears in their eyes. Indeed their generosity and affection were so urgent, that a few trifles from the nearest of them were accepted; while the others, unable to bear the seeming neglect, paddled a-head, and put their little presents in the pinnace, not knowing that she was again to return to the shore. Several canoes went before the vessel to point out the safest track; and others were waiting at the reef, to shew them the deepest water: from all these precautions, which were directed by the King, the reef was fortunately cleared without any accident. The King now came along-side, and gave Lee Boo his blessing, which the youth received with great respect and tendernefs: he next embraced the Captain, in much apparent distress, and then cordially shook hands with all the officers, crying——
“ You are happy because you are going
home,

home, and I am happy because you are so; but still very unhappy at your going away." Once more renewing his assurances of regard and good will, he left the vessel, and went into his canoe. The natives who were to return with the King, looked up to the vessel eagerly, with the most expressive countenances, and half dissolved in tears. This proof of delicate sensibility, and of proved affection, operated so strongly on the feelings of all aboard, that it was with much difficulty they summoned resolution enough to give three cheers at their final departure. Raa Kook remained, with a few of his attendants, to see them out of danger beyond the reef; but was so highly dejected, that the vessel had gone a great way before he thought of summoning his canoes to return. As he had been their first friend, the Captain gave him a brace

of pistols, and a cartouch-box with cartridges: and the moment of separation being now come, he appeared so much affected, that it was some time before he could speak; pointing to his heart, he said it was there he felt the pain of bidding them adieu. He endeavoured to converse with Lee Boo, his nephew; but being unable to proceed, he precipitately went into the boat, and giving them an expressive glance, as if his mind was convulsed, he instantly dropped a-stern; and thus terminated our connection with the natives of Pelew, after a residence among them from Sunday the 10th of August 1783, to Wednesday the 12th of November following.

It may not be unseasonable, while the amiable behaviour of these two respectable characters, Abba Thulle and Raa Kook, is fresh in the recollection

lection of the reader, to make a few general observations on their different characters.

Never was a prince more formed to attract and retain the love and admiration of his subjects than Abba Thulle; his appearance majestic, he commanded with authority; while his affability and easy access, rendered him a semi-deity, to all his subjects. In one of his councils, there was as much (we had almost said more) respect paid to his naked unadorned person, as to a European potentate, amidst all his trappings and pageantry, from the surrounding sycophants. His nice honour and quick feelings were very discernible on many occasions; never was there a reproof more delicate and yet more poignant, than what he gave the English on occasion of the late affair with the musquets. He was far from

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one of those harmless *nothings*, who hurt nobody because they have not a sense of injuries; while the warmth and sensibility of his heart won the love of all around him, his dignity of manner, and propriety of conduct taught them to approach him with respect. He possessed a contemplating mind, and few objects came within his observation, without being attentively considered. The prosperity of his subjects, was the principal object with him. It was this led him to part with his son Lee Boo, whom he tenderly loved—— For this he was at so much pains in examining every thing about the English, that might be serviceable to his people—in fine, his whole attention was engaged in forming and executing plans for the good of the nation and individuals. In domestic life he shone remarkably, and took a particular charge

charge of all his own relations; the misbehaviour of his nephew, at which we have already hinted, seemed to give him the greatest pain; while as the husband and parent, his heart seemed awake to every finer feeling which adorns humanity.

Accident only has made him acquainted with a few of the rest of mankind; and that accident he considered as the happiest of his life; we may perhaps never hear of him again, but judging from what is already known, he may justly be considered as one of the best of men and of kings.

His brother Raa Kook was a prince of so universally engaging demeanor, and whose every action expressed something so truly valuable, that Englishmen or natives equally admired him. He was so much a friend to the English,

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lish, that it may be suspected their account of him is partial; therefore little shall here be said, and that little not exaggerated.

His natural temper was cheerful and pleasant, though without that mimicry and humour for which his brother Arra Kooker was remarkable; at the same time he was far from averse to a good hearty laugh when a proper occasion offered. As commander in chief, he was beloved by them all: he dispensed his orders calmly and smoothly, but would not tolerate neglect. No man better understood the necessity of strict discipline; so that while he encouraged his inferiors to use all becoming freedom with him, he kept them at that *proper* distance, which is the true key to cheerful obedience. In principles of honour, he was by no means inferior to his brother; and
not

not only wished that the English should hold *him* in an honourable point of view, but all the nation; thus it was, that he could not bear the least idea of pilfering among them, for, as formerly mentioned, if any thing was amiss, Raa Kook soon discovered and punished the delinquent. One day, a chief Rupack sought a cutlass from Captain Wilson in his hearing; the frown instantly appeared, nor would he suffer it to be given him. He was exceedingly delicate in receiving favours himself; and though from his particular disposition in enquiring after causes and effects, many things about the English were very highly prized by him, he was particularly attentive, that nothing should betray any desire for what he thought might not be proper to be given. The reader has already seen, his agreeable deportment
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in his family; even to a degree which many in this age of dissipation and stoicism might reckon silly; but let it be noticed, that though the finer feelings shone in the natives of Pelew, to a length many in Britain would call effeminate—yet in fatigue, pain, distress and death, they appeared as heroes indeed.

Before we proceed to mention the future fortunes of our navigators, the following chapter is introduced to mention such observations on the manners and customs of these amiable people, as are thought interesting.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

General Description of the Islands—Productions—Natives—Dress—Dispositions—Manners—Religion—Marriages—Customs—General Character—Government—Precedency, &c.

AS the Antelope was not a vessel fitted out for discovery, and furnished with scientific gentlemen, qualified for making many philosophic observations, the naturalist, or philosopher, must wait the issue of more particular discoveries and enquiries. Men distressed with the dread of perpetual exile, and whose attention was almost wholly occupied about their deliverance, were not the persons for tracing nature accurately in her various appearances and effects.

The Pelew Islands, or as some call them the Palos Islands, are situated between 130° and 136° of east longitude

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from London, and 5° and 9° north latitude. They are long and narrow, lying in north and east direction. They are plentifully covered with wood of various kinds; such as the *Cabbage Tree*, *Ebony*, and a species of the *Manchineel*, the sap of which, when it touches the skin, occasions an immediate swelling and blistering; this was the tree, which they considered as unlucky. But their three most remarkable trees, we in Britain are totally strangers to; one is a very pretty tree, and upon boring a hole in it, a thick substance like cream distills from it: another is very like a cherry tree in its manner of branching; it has a very thin cover, which is not properly a bark, being as close in the texture as the inner wood, which is very hard; none of the English tools could stand to work it: in colour it is very like, though still prettier than mahogany,

hogany : the last is like an almond tree, the natives call it carambolla. Beetle-nuts, yams, cocoa-nuts and bread-fruit, are their staple articles of livelihood, about which they are principally concerned; and a few oranges, lemons and the jamboo apple (those brought to Lee Boo on his departure) are their delicacies. They have no grain. The islands are in general well cultivated, as the natives spare no pains; all their labour consists in fishing and the cultivation of their grounds. Every man had his own piece of ground so long as he inclined to dwell there; but if he left it for another, it returned to the King, as chief proprietor, who bestowed it on the next that applied for it. One thing was very discernible, that every man had his own canoe, which he kept sacred.

It has already been mentioned, that there are no quadrupeds on the island, except rats. Birds of different kinds were observed flying about, some of them very beautiful, but the greater part of them are those which are known by the name of tropic birds. Whether from their peculiar kinds, or the echoing in the wood, is not easily determined, but the English were ready to think their notes had a very peculiar melody; one in particular, was uncommonly sweet, but though the sound appeared quite at hand, none of the birds could be noticed. But we must not omit to mention, that the English have probably taught them a lesson which may be of great service to them; the islands abounded with common cocks and hens, which the natives considered as a very useless animal, and therefore took no pains about them,
but

but left them to wander wild through the woods; at times they would have eaten their eggs, provided they were to their taste, that is, not fresh or lately laid; but if containing an imperfect chicken, they were delicious. They were now however taught to eat the flesh of the fowls, which they soon found to be a very palatable food.

Few parts of the globe are so well supplied with fish of all kinds, particularly mullets, crabs, oysters, muscles, &c. but the fish most esteemed among them is the shark, the greater part of which they reckon delicious. Several kinds of shell fish, they eat quite raw, in preference to dressed. They have few fresh-water fish, as there are no rivers on the islands, only a few pools and small springs, &c. Their method of preserving their fish, has been already noticed; they have no salt, and have

little conception of sauce or seasoning to any thing they eat. Sometimes they boiled both fish and vegetables in salt-water, but this was no improvement; but when they eat any thing raw, they squeeze a little orange or lemon juice upon it.

They get up betimes in the morning, and their first work is to bathe. There are particular places appointed for this; and a man dares not approach the women's bathing places, without previously giving a particular halloo, of which, if no notice is taken, he may proceed, but if they halloo in return, he must immediately retire. They breakfast about eight, and proceed to public business or any other employment till noon, when they dine; they sup about sun-set, and very soon after retire to rest.

The

The reader will have observed frequent mention is made of sweetmeats in this narrative, a more particular account of which may be proper. They had various sorts; one was prepared by scraping the kernel of the cocconut into a pulp, and then mixing it up with orange juice and sweet drink. This sweet drink is a composition of the juice of sweet canes, which the island produces plentifully. This mixture they generally simmered over a slow fire, which when warm they made up into lumps; it soon turned so hard that a knife would scarce cut it. This the English called *Choak-dog*, but the natives called it *Woolell*. Another sort is made up of the fruit of the tree just mentioned like the almond tree; and on one occasion they presented Captain Willon with some liquid sweet

meats,

meats, which they prepare from a root somewhat similar to our turnips.

The natives are in general stout, well made and athletic; many of them appeared to be uncommonly strong; they are in general about the middle size, and universally of one tinge as to colour, not wholly black, but a very deep copper colour. The men have their left ear bored, and the women both; they wore a particular leaf, and at times an ornament of shell in the perforated ear. Their noses are also ornamented, by a flower or sweet shrub, stuck through the cartilage between the nostrils. This custom is not peculiar to Pelew, but is found in many eastern nations, and probably proceeds from their great desire for sweet scents; and though at first it appeared rather disagreeable, from want of use, it is certainly a more pleasant and becoming refreshment

refreshment to the nose, than the use of tobacco either by snuffing or plugging. Their teeth we have already mentioned are died black; but the English could never learn the method it was done, nor more about it than that it was accomplished by means of some herbs when young, and the operation was very painful. The tatooing the body is also done in youth, though not altogether in childhood. The only appearance of any thing like drefs among these natives is in the female sex, who in general wear a piece of mat, or the husks of cocoa-nut died, about nine or ten inches deep, round their waist; some of these aprons are very neatly made, and ornamented with beads, &c. Abba Thulle's daughter Erre Befs, gave Henry Wilson a present of a very neat one to carry to his little sister.

It

It has in general been granted, that mankind however ignorant and savage, are still possessed of conscience, and the internal knowledge of a certain something, their superior, to which they are accountable; nor has any class of men yet been discovered who have not some outward rite or ceremony whereby this knowledge is expressed. However superstitious, enthusiastical, or foolish their different modes of worship may appear; to those who have been blest with revelation, nay, however, much we may be puzzled to investigate a cause, to which the singularity of some of their religious rites are to be attributed, yet still the existence of one Great First Cause or ruling Deity has been acknowledged, not in word only, but by some outward ceremony or rite. To deny that any such custom exists at Pelew, and yet that they acknowledge

knowledge a Superior Power, may be considered rash, yet, from the most attentive observations and enquiries the English could make, they have reason to believe that is the case. Neither place, time nor circumstance, could be observed as pointing to any worship or religious rite; nor could the English collect any thing from their conversation, though particularly questioned on the subject, from which they could discover their ideas concerning the God of nature. The most probable conjecture is, that the inward monitor, at which we have just been hinting, leads them to think of some directing chance, good and bad, without any percife idea further.

In order that the reader may somehow be enabled to judge for himself in this particular, he may recollect the following circumstances already mentioned

oned—The *unlucky* wood which Abba Thulle mentioned to Captain Wilson—Raa Kook's behaviour in the old woman's house with the nuts, &c. after his son's funeral—and the muttering which took place on several occasions, mentioned through the preceding sheets. It was very clear, that they had some strong fixed idea of *Divination*; when Lee Boo set out to sea, he was for several days uncommonly sick; and he then told Mr Sharp, he was sure his father and friends were very sorry for him, for they knew what he underwent. He was prepossessed with the same idea when dying, as we will soon have occasion to mention. Indeed, on one occasion, while in Britain, he seemed to intimate that they understood the spirit existed even after death; as upon occasion of Captain Wilson's informing him the intention of going
to

to church, being to reform men's lives, and that they might go to heaven, he replied, that at Pelew, bad men stay on earth, and good men grow very beautiful and ascend into the sky. When Mr Barker fell from the side of the vessel, the natives said it was owing to the *unlucky wood* being in the vessel; and upon several other occasions seemed to hint at the effects of a superior power. One particular mode of divination was observed, and considered to be peculiar to the King, as none but he used it. They have a plant, not unlike our bulrush, by splitting the leaves of which and applying to the middle finger, he judged of the success of any occurrence of moment; before the first expedition to Artingall, it was noticed that the answer was very favourable, but when about to set sail on the second, the oracle did not ap-

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pear altogether so agreeable; Abba Thulle therefore would not suffer them to enter their canoes, until he had twisted his leaves, till as he thought they appeared more favourable. On this subject we shall only further add, that the respectful attentive silence of the natives, while the English were at worship, seemed to indicate, that although they knew nothing of any religious forms of worship, yet they were not insensible of the existence of one *Great Supreme Cause*, who rewarded and punished according as deeds should merit; and hence that strong sense of propriety, justice and delicacy, which produced among them the strictest morality.

The general character of these natives of Pelew is now pretty well imprinted on the reader's mind, a very few additional observations are therefore

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fore necessary. Humanity is the prominent feature in the picture; the English were cast upon their territories, in a state the most helpless that can well be conceived; twenty seven men, without even common necessaries of life, entirely dependent on their bounty; fed, supported, assisted in their labours, and every thing done for them that was in their power. Let us only for a moment consider the hourly bounty which was poured in upon them, not of their useless provender, but, as the English had many occasions to observe, their best provisions were given to their strangers, while many perhaps were scanty enough at home. Only recollect the parting scene—see the crowding canoes holding out presents, not the distant effects of complaisance, but the warm effusions of philanthropy!—Could ostentation, pride, or the hope

of retribution influence them? by no means—it was kindness to men they never expected to see again.

Their native politeness was constantly observable; possessing a degree of curiosity, beyond any of the South-sea natives, they never knowingly intruded when it was inconvenient; in them it was evident that *good manners* are the natural result of *good sense*. The attention paid by the men of Pelew to their wives, was very uncommon in most parts of the world; and even a British husband might at times get a lesson. Their marriages seemed to consist in a serious solemn contract without any formal ceremony, but they are strictly faithful to one another; and the utmost decency of behaviour is uniformly supported. A husband never sleeps with his wife when pregnant, but during that period the greatest atten-
tion

tion is paid to her, in order that she may be kept easy. A plurality of wives is allowed, though they generally confine themselves to two, a Rupack three, and the King five: they name the children soon after born, without any ceremony. One of Abba Thulle's wives bore him a son while the English were there, which he named *Captain*, to the memory of Captain Wilson. They are far from being naturally lascivious, and the utmost decency is preserved among the natives; one of the sailors endeavoured to pay his addresses to a female, but was rebuffed in a manner that prevented any further attempts.

They are in general an active, laborious set of people, possessing the greatest resolution in cases of danger, patience under misfortunes, and resignation at their death. Except a few Rupacks there was little subordination of

rank, (and of that we will speak presently) consequently their employments were pretty much the same; fencing their plantations, planting their yams, making hatchets, building houses and canoes, mending and preparing fishing tackle, forming darts and war-like weapons with domestic utensils, and burning chinam, may be said to comprise the whole round of their employments. Those who had a particular turn for mechanical operations or any uncommon pieces of work, they called *Tackelbys*; it was to them the King so often gave particular orders to observe the building of the Schooner. Idleness was tolerated in none; the women were as laborious as the men, and the King and Rupacks were as much employed as any. Abba Thulle was the best maker of hatchets in the island; and generally laboured at them
when

when disengaged from affairs of state; they had no idea of unemployed time, and therefore it is, that without the proper tools for finishing a fine piece of work, practice had taught them, even with their coarse implements, to execute, what a British Artist, could not have conceived practicable. Their mats, baskets and ornaments are so curiously wrought, that when their simple tools are considered, the ingenuity is more to be admired, than much superior productions executed under the advantages which European mechanics enjoy.

That equality of station which appeared evidently among them, and ignorance of those luxuries which civilization intruduces, proved no inconsiderable source of happiness to them; the one prevented that ambition which is often so destructive to society, and the other those cares which
affluence

affluence awakens. In all the connection which the English had with them, robbery or rapine were never named among them; nature it is true, allowed them little, but that little they enjoyed with content. Human nature here shone in most amiable colours; men appeared as brethren; uninformed and unenlightened, they grasped at nothing more than competency and health; linked together as in one common cause, they mutually supported each other; courteous, affable, gentle and humane, their little state was cemented in bonds of harmony;—but a short account of their government may be proper.

Abba Thulle, the King was the chief person in the state, and all the homage of royalty was accordingly paid to his person. He was supreme in the greater part of the islands which came within

thin the observation of the English; but Artingall, Pelelew, Emungs and Emellegree appeared to be independent, tho' from any thing that could be observed or learned, their form of Government was similar. The general mode of making obeifance to the King, was by putting their hands behind them and bowing towards the ground; and this custom prevailed not only when passing him in the streets or fields, but when they passed the house in which they supposed him to be. His carriage and demeanour was stately and dignified, and he supported his station very becomingly. He devoted the forenoon to public business, and decided every matter of state by a council of Rupacks. They assembled in a square pavement in the open air, the King being remarkable from being placed in the centre, on a stone of larger size than those of the

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the Rupacks. They seemed to deliver their minds with freedom, as matters occurred; and the assembly was dissolved by the King rising up. The afternoon was devoted to receiving petitions, hearing requests, and deciding controversies; these it may easily be supposed seldom occurred, for as their property was small and of little value; and as there were no lawyers nor their emissaries to foment disputes, the proper barriers of right and wrong were easily defined. Wrangles and fighting seldom happened, for even a dispute between children was checked by a severe frown, and their impetuosity bridled. When any real injury was done by any one to his neighbour, it was a pleasing sight to see how justice was administered; their laws were the simple dictates of conscience as to right and wrong between

between man and man ; no rhetoric or enticing words of wisdom were employed to mask vice under the cloak of virtue ; none of these subterfuges could be employed whereby fraud and oppression could be screened ; oaths were unknown, and the simple dictates of truth directed the judge ; nor were there any punishment of a corporeal kind ; being convicted of injuring a neighbour was to them more galling and disgraceful, than any pillory yet invented by British ingenuity.

Messages were transmitted to the King with great ceremony ; the messenger never was admitted into the presence, but delivered it to an inferior Rupack, who delivered the message to the King, and brought his answer.

The General was next in authority to the King, and acted for him in his absence ; he summoned the Rupacks
to

to attend when needed, and had the chief command of all the forces; tho' it was observed, that in actual engagement, when the King was present he himself officiated. The General succeeded the King in case of his death, and on his demise, Arra Kooker; when the sovereignty would again revert to Abba Thulle's eldest son, then Lee Boo and so on. The King had always an attendant, who though not so high in office as the General, was more constantly about his person. He was considered as the principal Minister, and a man of judgment; he never bore arms, nor went on the warlike expeditions. It was remarked that he had only one wife, and never invited any of the English to his house.

The *Rupacks* were very numerous, and considered in the same light as the nobility are in Britain. They were of
different

different orders, distinguishable by the size and quality of the Bone, of which Captain Wilson belonged to the highest rank. They all attended the King on command, every one bringing with him, a certain number of dependants, with their canoes, spears and darts. The reader will be apt here to trace a similitude to the feudal system; but as the knowledge the English acquired of these matters was very superficial, nothing very conclusive can be ascertained. These and many other matters must be left for time to develop; all that can be said further at present is, that whatever was their precise mode of government, it was wonderfully adapted for the people. All the islands appeared populous, but the number is not easily conjectured. There were four thousand active men in the expedition against Pelelew, and it was evident,

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many more were left at home, not being needed.

The method they took for building houses, was very ingenious. They raised them three feet from the ground, in order to prevent damp; this space they filled up with solid stone and overlaid with thick plank as a floor. The walls were built of wood, very closely interwoven with bamboos and palm leaves, so that no cold nor wet could possibly come through; the roof was pointed in the same manner as village houses are in this country. Their windows come down on a level with the floor, answering for doors also; and have a sort of shutters, which they fill up the chasm with, when necessary; their fires are kindled in the centre of the room (for all the house is in one room) the fire place being sunk lower than the floor, with no timber below it, the whole

whole space being filled up with small stones, &c. Their houses for public meetings are about 70 feet long, but the common dwelling houses do not exceed forty.

Their spears have already been mentioned, it is thought only necessary to add concerning them, that they were barbed transversely, so that if once they were stuck in the flesh, it was impossible to extract them. One of their most effective weapons in war is the dart and sling; the darts are thrown by means of an instrument, not unlike what is called a cross-bow in this country; upon a strong straight piece of wood the dart is laid, and on one end of the wood is fixed an elastic piece of bamboo, by compressing which with greater or less force, they throw the dart to the distance of fifty or sixty feet as they incline; it is astonishing how ex-

actly they can direct this weapon, and the distance at which it proves mortal. They have daggers about thirteen inches in length, which are made of bones of fish; and some of the Ruck-packs had also a kind of sword, made of very hard wood and inlaid with shells.

Their canoes are admirable workmanship; they are made of the trunks of large trees, in the same manner with those throughout the South-seas, but with surprising neatness; they ornament them with shells and paint them red. It has already been mentioned, that the natives painted the Schooner for the English, and as their method is peculiar, it may be proper to mention it. They take the red ochre and crumble it down among water, then soak it for some time over a slow fire; when it is brought to the necessary consistence,

consistence, they rub it on the wood, while warm; when dry, they varnish it with cocoa-nut oil, which gives it a polish that no water can efface. Their canoes are of different sizes, but the largest will not carry more than thirty people; the common ones, from five to ten. They use sails made of matting, which are by no means capable to encounter a rough sea, they therefore keep as near the shore as possible. The natives row with great ability, inasmuch, that the canoes made purposely for swift sailing, seem scarcely to touch the water, moving with a velocity unknown to our boatmen; their dexterity in handling the oars is admirable, when on visits of ceremony, they flourish their paddles with great address and exact order. Their domestic implements are few in number and very simple; they are the evident produc-

tions of necessity, well calculated to answer the ends intended, without much ornament. Their little baskets which they always carry about with them, are among their neatest pieces of workmanship; in them they carry their nuts, knife, string, and any other little article they may need for the work about which they are employed. They are also hung up around the walls of their houses for ornament and use. Their knives are made of shells which they sharpen to such an edge as fully answers all common purposes.

Their fishing hooks were ingeniously formed of tortoise-shell, and their combs of the orange tree; the mats on which they slept, and those with which they were covered when asleep, were formed of the husks of coconuts. They have a number of vessels made of earthen ware, for purposes

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ses of cookery; they stand the heat exceedingly well, if heated by degrees, of which the natives are very careful. Their strings, cords, and fishing-nets are all manufactured from the husks of cocoa-nuts. Their drinking cups are made of cocoa-shells, which they polish with great art. But the hatchets are the most uncommon weapons; the blade is made of a very strong species of cockle, which they call *Kima Cockle*, ground to a sharp edge; they were very anxious however for iron to substitute in its room. Some of their hatchets were made with moveable heads, with which they could answer the principal purposes of an adze; so that though their tools were not remarkable for beauty or convenience, yet the English were often surpris'd with what facility they cut down the largest trees with them.

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Their articles for ornament were far from numerous ; the King had a very fine tureen, somewhat in shape of a bird, and finely ornamented with various devices, very neatly cut out upon it, this he made a present of to Captain Wilson ; it held about 36 English quarts. The tortoise-shell they wrought into various little dishes, spoons, trays and other vessels ; the shell they have in these islands is of a very beautiful kind, but their manner of working it, the English could never get an opportunity of observing.

The torches they use have been frequently mentioned ; they seemed to be a rosin mixed with small pieces of a particular species of wood, which burns well ; they have a clear light, and an agreeable smell.

Having now recapitulated such observations as the English had opportunity

nity to make during their short residence among them, it may not be improper to glance a little at such parts of their conduct as seem to disagree with that strong humanity and urbanity which have been uniformly represented as distinguishing characteristics in these natives of Pelew. Several instances have been given of their noble principles not being confined to their intercourse with one another, but that to their enemies, they behave with a degree of generosity totally unknown among nine tenths of mankind. Where is the nation that scorns to attack their enemy unseen or by night? What people send embassies to herald their approach? But it may be asked, how can it be accounted for, that these friends of humanity, should so wantonly take away the lives of their fellow creatures, when captivated in battle: An answer
to

to this has already been attempted; the practice has but very lately taken place, and is the result of what they imagined to be *political necessity*. They considered a captive as a most dangerous person among them; no prisons, nor public works to employ them in, so that had they not put them to death, they would have been very troublesome companions.

The reader may also have noticed in the course of the narration, an inclination to pilfer, perhaps inconsistent with that character of integrity we have been just mentioning. The circumstances however should be carefully weighed; a nail, or bit of old iron, was to them a precious jewel; and the commonalty had almost no opportunity of getting any, except in the way of picking them up when they accidentally fell in their way; they very seldom
took

took any thing of consequence, except when the temptation was so peculiarly singular that even the rigidly virtuous would easily find an excuse for it; it may well be said, “that they must have been more than men, had they acted less like men. Virtuous in the extreme that country would be deemed where the conscience of no individual, in the cool moments of reflection, could upbraid him with a heavier transgression, than applying to his own use a bit of iron that lay before him.”

CHAP. VII.

Passage to Macao—Proceed to Canton and Embark for England—Anecdotes of Lee Boo—His Distress and Death.—

THE English were now once more on the way to all they held dear,
and

and having wiped away the tear of a friendly farewell, proceeded on their voyage with cheerfulness; the first two days the weather proved very tolerable; the wind varied from E. to S. E.

The principal person that will figure in the few following pages, is the highly valued Prince Lee Boo, a youth of the most remarkable abilities, and in whose history every reader must feel interested. He had thrown himself freely into the protection of strangers, deserting his native country, his friends, his all, trusting to the honour of a handful of men of whose existence he had but a few weeks before been utterly ignorant. For a few days he suffered excessively from sea sickness, in which situation he could eat nothing, but was quite sunk in his spirits; this however wore off when he appeared to be easy and contented. Captain Wil-
son

son now instructed him as to decency in his appearance, and desired he would dress as they did; he did so, but soon threw off the coat and jacket as insupportably cumbersome; but still retained the trowsers, as decency required, and would never afterwards part with them; indeed, as they began gradually to advance into a colder climate, he soon resumed the coat and jacket also. His notions of delicacy from what had been told him, and what he observed among the English, gradually increased, so that he would not so much as change any part of his dress unless when by himself. He continued to wash himself several times a day, and kept his clothes and every thing about his person very clean.

Sunday the 16th they kept a sort of thanksgiving to God for their deliver-

ance, for which it may be safely said, they were all very grateful. They now also discovered a small leak in the vessel, which they found it impossible wholly to stop, they therefore employed two men constantly at the pump, which kept it under. Lee Boo was greatly discouraged at losing sight of land, a circumstance which had not previously occurred to him. From the 18th to the 25th of November, they had variable and disagreeable weather, heavy squalls, accompanied with thunder and lightning. On the 25th they came in sight of the Bashee Islands to the great joy of Lee Boo, who was happy once more, with at least a distant sight of terra firma. On the 26th they saw the island of Formosa, bearing N. E.; the 27th and 28th, the weather being favourable, they fell in with several Chinese

nese fishing vessels and small craft, and on the 29th anchored near the high land called Asses Ears. Having here engaged a pilot to conduct them to Macao, they arrived there next day. Lee Boo was greatly astonished at the size of the Portuguese ships in the Typa, calling out *clow, clow, muc clow!* that is, large, large, very large! The Governor paid Captain Wilson and his crew all manner of attention, and sent plenty of provisions of all kinds to the men on board the Oroolong, informing them at same time, that peace was now re-established in Europe. Captain Wilson, Lee Boo and the officers got lodgings appointed them on shore, except Mr Benger who took the command on board. An express was immediately forwarded to the Company's *supra-cargoes* at Canton, informing of their arrival and situation.

Mr M'Intyre an old acquaintance of Captain Wilfon's paid them uncommon attention, and insisted on their lodging in his house. He had a Portuguese Gentleman in company with him, who invited them to his house on their way to Mr M'Intyre's, and that principally on Lee Boo's account, with whom he was greatly taken, and wished to introduce him to his family. His house was therefore the first into which Lee Boo entered, and his surprize on entering it cannot be easily described. The rooms, the furniture and ornaments, all severally crowded so many new objects on his mind at once, that he was perfectly lost in amazement; it was remarkable however, that amidst all his confusion, his behaviour was to the greatest degree easy and polite; and as he observed that he occasioned the same surprize in others that they did in him,

him, he very politely permitted them to examine his hands, described the tatooning, and appeared pleased with the attention paid him. On their way to Mr M'Intyre's, Lee Boo displayed his native benevolence very remarkably: observing the poor Tartar women, with their children tied to their backs, begging, he distributed all the oranges and other things he had about him among them.

When they reached Mr M'Intyre's it was late, so that the table was covered for supper, and the room elegantly illuminated; a new scene here burst upon him—the whole seemed to him a scene of magic. It is impossible to particularise every thing with which he was remarkably fascinated; a large mirror at the upper end of the room, rivetted his attention for a while; he saw his complete person, and supposed

it to be somebody behind very like himself; he looked, laughed, and looked again, not knowing what to think. Indeed the mirror had a surprising effect on more than Lee Boo; the Englishmen had seen every one his neighbour's face, during all their distresses, but nobody had seen his own; the hollow edged, long visag'd appearance they now made, to what they formerly recollected, cast rather a melancholy impression upon their minds. Next day Lee Boo spent mostly in examining Mr M'Intyre's house, in which he found abundance of new objects to surprise him. The other Gentlemen in the mean time went about purchasing such little commodities as they stood in need of, and every one brought in some little trinket with him for Lee Boo; among the rest, was a string of large glass beads, which almost distracted the poor
Prince

Prince with surprise and joy. He conceived himself possessed of greater treasures than all the Pelew islands could afford; he run to Captain Wilson enraptured with his property, and begged that a small Chinese vessel might be hired to transport them to Pelew, and desired his father might be informed the *Englees* had carried him to a fine country, from whence he would soon send him other presents; at same time adding, that if the persons Captain Wilson should employ, faithfully and expeditiously executed their trust, he would reward them with two glass beads;—Happy state of innocence, where the utmost ambition can be so easily satisfied.

While at Macao, Lee Boo had frequent opportunities of seeing people of different nations, but soon gave a decided preference to the English, especially

ally the ladies: It has been already mentioned that there are no quadrupeds at the Pelew Islands, and that the Newfoundland dog left there, was the first of the species they had seen; they called him *sailor*, which name Lee Boo now applied to every quadruped he saw. Horses were his great favourites, he called them *clow sailor* or great sailor; he would often go to the stable and stroke their mane and neck, and soon ventured to mount them. He intreated Captain Wilson to send a horse to his uncle Raa Kook.

In a few days Captain Wilson received letters from Canton; the *supra* cargoes desiring him to draw for what money he needed, and ordering the men to be supplied with every necessary in abundance. The kindness shewn them on this occasion by all ranks at Macao and Canton, all the officers and
men

men speak of in the warmest terms. Captain Wilson, and his company took shipping for Whampoa in the Walpole Captain Churchill, leaving Mr Benger to take care of the Oroolong, and dispose of her. In a few days they arrived at Canton, having been kept in spirits all the way by Lee Boo, whose admiration at every new object and sensible remarks, at same time, surprised all who had an opportunity of conversing him. He was greatly surprised at the various dishes of meat, which he saw successively set before them, alledging, that his father, though a King, was happy to serve himself with a few yams and cocoa-nuts; while here, the Gentlemen had a great many different dainties, and servants attending them while they were eating. Observing a man drunk, he said he would not drink

drink spirits, as it made him unlike a man.

An instance of Lee Boo's strong attachment to those he knew, may be here mentioned, which will serve to point out this striking feature not in his character only, but in all the natives of Pelew. One day while sitting at a window which looked towards the sea, he observed a boat making towards shore, in which were Mr Benger and Mr M'Intyre, his joy was so great, that he did not take time to tell Captain Wilson or any other in the room the cause of his emotion, but springing from his seat, flew to the shore in a twinkling; immediately on their landing he shook hands with them so heartily and with such expressions of affection, as won their warmest regard. They had disposed of the schooner for
seven

seven hundred Spanish dollars, which was considered as a very good price.

Lee Boo became an universal favourite wherever he appeared; his agreeable good natured pleasant behaviour, made him acceptable in every company. He one day very much surpris'd a company of gentlemen with his dexterity in throwing the dart; a party was formed to have a trial of skill in the factory hall; they hung up a gauze cage and a bird painted in the middle; they stood at a good distance, and with much difficulty hit even the cage; when Lee Boo's turn came, he took up his spear very carelessly, and with the greatest ease, struck the little bird through the head. He had one day an opportunity of seeing some blue glafs, which greatly delighted him; it was a colour he had not before seen; the gentleman in whose house it was,
made

made him a present of two jarrs of the same colour, which greatly delighted him; *Oh! were it possible he exclaimed, that my friends at Pelew could see them!*

As the time was now near at hand when the company's ships would sail for England, Captain Wilson laid before his people an account of the produce from the Oroolong, and other articles which had been sold; and giving to every one an equitable share, he addressed the whole company nearly as follows: "Gentlemen, the moment being now arrived when every one may to advantage follow his own inclination, I cannot part with you, without testifying my approbation at the spirited, the judicious, and the manly conduct you have preserved, amidst our trying difficulties; and be assured, that, on my arrival in England, I will represent you to the Company as entitled

titled to their particular regard, and I make no doubt but they will reward your toils." If mutual adversity will reconcile the most inveterate enemies, surely the sufferings of friends must rivet a more forcible affection; and every one now present, appeared to feel the weight of the remark, for a tender concern was manifest in every countenance. The conduct of Mr Wilson had been so mild and prudent, and his example so animating, they still wished him for their commander: but it was not now a time for choice; necessity and reason pointed out their course. Lee Boo and the Captain came home in the *Morse*, and the surgeon in the *Lascelles*; while others embarked in different ships.

What has already been mentioned concerning the amiable Lee Boo, has no doubt interested every reader in his

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history,

history, in which we hope to be excused, if regard for a favourite subject, should lead us to be at times triflingly minute, as some readers may think.

The *Morse* was commanded by Captain Elliott, with whom Lee Boo made himself very happy; his spirit of enquiry concerning various objects which he saw, began now to be directed more concerning their utility than formerly; and he shewed no small anxiety to pick up as much knowledge as possible concerning such articles as would be useful at Pelew. His method of keeping his Journal is very noticeable; he had a string on which he cast a knot for every remarkable object he wished to imprint on his memory; these knots he examined daily, and by recollecting the circumstances which occasioned their being cast, he imprinted the transactions on his memory: the officers of
the

the Morfe humourouſly remarked when they ſaw him referring to his hempen tablet, that he was reading his Journal. He was not forgetful of the crew of the Oroolong, about whom he made frequent enquiries. Early in the voyage, he aſked for a book, that with aſſiſtance he might learn the Engliſh alphabet, which was given him. At St Helena he was ſurpriſed at the ſight of the ſoldiers, and the cannon on the fortifications; and four men of war arriving during his ſtay there, afforded new matter of aſtoniſhment. On being taken to ſee a ſchool, he appeared ſo conſcious of his own deficiency, that he begged he might learn like the boys. While here he had alſo opportunities of riding on horſeback of which he was very fond; he galloped with great eaſe, and ſat his horſe very gracefully. Before the Morfe ſailed from St Hele-

na, the Lafcelles arrived there, so that he had an interview with his first friend Mr Sharp; he was exceedingly happy with that Gentleman for whom he had the greatest regard. When the Morfe approached the British channel, the number of ships that passed, confounded his Journal, and he was obliged to discontinue his memorandums. But on landing at Portsmouth, the objects that met his view were so stupenduous and grand, he was involved in silent astonishment, asking no questions whatever. The Captain proceeded to London, impatient to see his family, and left Lee Boo under the protection of his brother; who, however, soon after set off in a stage-coach, with his innocent charge. Describing his journey, he said he had been put into a little house, which horses ran away with

with, and that though he went to sleep, he did not stop travelling.

On his arrival in London, he was not a little happy to meet with his Mentor, his new father, whom he was afraid he had lost. Being shewn his chamber, he could not conceive the use of the bed, it being a four post one and of course different from what he had seen on board: before he would repose himself, he jumped in and out of it several times, to admire its form, and intimating that here there was a house for every thing; it was all fine country, fine streets, fine coach, and house upon house up to the sky—for the huts at Pelew being only one story, he considered every floor here as a distinct house. Captain Wilson introduced Lee Boo to some of the East-India Directors, and to most of his friends; and at the same time shewed him the most

conspicuous public buildings; but his prudent conductor kept him from stage and other exhibitions, lest the heat of the place might communicate the small-pox. He was sent to an academy at Rotherhithe, where he was very assiduous in learning to read and write: and he soon became the favourite of all his schoolfellows, from his gentleness and affability. During the hours of recess, he amused his benefactor's family by mimicking such peculiarities as he observed in the boys at school. He said that when he returned to Pelew, he would keep an academy himself; and he imagined the great men of his country would think him very wise when he shewed them their letters. He always called his patron, Captain; but he would address Mrs Wilson no otherwise than his Mother, although he was too cold to the contrary;

contrary; conceiving it a tender expression. When he saw the young asking charity, he was highly offended, saying they ought to work; but the supplication of the old and infirm met his natural benevolence—"Must give poor old man; old man no able to work."

About this time he appeared to be about twenty years of age, middle sized; so with having a most expressive countenance much sensibility and good humour, that he instantly prejudiced one in his favour; his eyes were so strikingly expressive that though he knew very little English, his meaning was easily understood.

This quickness of manner and readiness of apprehension were astonishing; a young lady with whom he was one day in company sat down to the harpsichord, in order to discover how it affected him; to the music he paid little attention,

attention, but he was greatly interested to discover how the sounds were produced. He at same time sung a song in the Pelew style, but it was very harsh. He was naturally polite; one day at dinner, Mrs Wilson desired him to help her to some cherries, when Lee Boo very quickly proceeded to take them up with his fingers; she pleasantly hinted his error, when he immediately took up a spoon, at the same time his countenance was in a moment suffused with a blush.

Captain Wilson, one day, happening to rebuke his son for some trifling neglect in the presence of Lee Boo, the generous youth was not happy till he had joined their hands, which he did with the tears of sensibility streaming from his eyes. He preferred riding in a coach to every other conveyance, as it allowed people, he said, an opportunity

ty of talking together : he was fond of going to church, because he knew it was a religious duty, the *object* and final *end* being the same both at Pelew and in England. He was present at Lunardi's aerial ascension ; and remarked, that it was a ridiculous mode of travelling, as it could be done so much easier in a coach. He narrowly observed all plants and fruit-trees, and said he should take some seeds of each to Pelew. Indeed, in all his pursuits, he never lost sight of what benefits they might tend to in his country. But in the midst of his innocent researches, just as he was getting a quick knowledge of the language, he was taken ill of the dreaded small-pox : Dr Smith immediately attended him, who, in the first stage of the disorder predicted the fatal consequences which ensued. He cheerfully took the medicines that were administered ;

administered; and willingly dispensed with the sight of Mr Wilson, when he was told that he never had the disorder, and that it was infectious. In the midst of his illness, hearing that Mrs Wilson was confined to her chamber, he cried—"What, mother bad—Lee Boo get up to see her:" which he actually did. Mr Sharp, the surgeon of the Antelope, also attended him. Viewing himself in a glass just before his death, he turned his head away in disgust, at the appearance of his face, which was much swelled and disfigured. Getting worse, and sensible of his approaching fate, he fixed his eyes attentively on Mr Sharp, and said—"Good friend, when you go to my country, tell my father, that Lee Boo take much drink to make the small-pox go away, but he die—that Captain and Mother very kind—all English very good

good men—was much sorry he could not tell Abba Thulle the great many fine things the English got.” He then enumerated all the presents he had received, which he begged the surgeon to distribute among his friends and the Rupacks. The dying discourse of this child of nature so affected the man who attended him, that he could not help sobbing most piteously, which Lee Boo observing, asked—“Why should he cry so, because Lee Boo die?” Thinking Mrs Wilson’s illness arose from his own, he would frequently cry out, she being only in an adjoining chamber, Lee Boo do well, mother:” The dreadful moment of separation being now arrived, he told Mr Sharp he was going away;” and yielded his last breath without apprehension, and with that native innocence and simplicity which had marked his every action.

tion. The family, the servants, and those who knew him, could not withhold the tears of affectionate regard, when informed of the melancholy event;—The East-India Company ordered Lee Boo to be buried in Rotherhithe church-yard, with every possible mark of respect: all who knew him, with the pupils at the academy, attended the funeral; and the concourse was otherwise so great, that it might be supposed his good qualities had been publicly proclaimed, instead of being privately communicated. A tomb, with this inscription was soon after erected by the East-India Company:

To the Memory
 Of Prince Lee Boo,
 A Native of the Pelew or Palos Islands;
 And son to Abba Thulle, Rupack or King
 Of the Island Cooroora*;
 Who departed this Life on the 27th of December 1784,
 Aged 20 Years,
 This Stone is Inscribed,
 By the Honourable United East India Company,
 As a Testimony of Esteem
 For the Humane and Kind Treatment
 Afforded by his Father, to the Crew of their Ship,
 The Antelope, CAPT. WILSON,
 Which was wrecked off that Island
 In the Night of the 9th of August 1783.

Stop, Reader, stop! Let *Nature* claim a Tear;
 A Prince of *mine*, Lee Boo, lies bury'd here.

This amiable young prince, whose
 residence here was only five months,
 conformed himself to the English dress
 in every instance, except his hair,
 which he continued to wear after the
 Z fashion

* Cooroora is the proper name of the Island, of
 which Pelew is the capital town.

fashion of his own country. He was of a middling stature; and his countenance was so expressive, that it depicted the best qualities of a virtuous mind: his eyes were lively and intelligent; and his whole manner, gentle and interesting: he had the natural politeness of a gentleman, without the drudgery of study, or the observance of established forms of ceremony. After his death it was found that he had laid by all the seeds or stones of fruit he had eat after his arrival, with a view to plant them at Pelew.

When we reflect on the unhappy fate of poor Lee Boo, with which the reader is now acquainted, the mind ranges to the habitation of his father Abba Thulle, who on a cord had tied thirty knots, as a *memento* that his son would return in thirty moons or perhaps a few more, for which he was
willing

willing to make allowance. Those moons have long since performed their evolutions; the knots are untied; and yet no gladdening sail hovers round Pelew. Lee Boo is dead in reality; and though no more even in the tortured imagination of his expecting family, yet the sight of an European vessel, even at this distant period, would animate their hopes, and recal the fondness of past endearments. It will be a long time before the Ariel will reach this friendly, this hospitable shore; when the joy of the King to see a return of the English, will be so far overclouded by his parental disappointment: but his mind is too noble, open, and generous, to entertain for a moment, a suspicion that Captain Wilson could be guilty of inattention to Lee Boo, much less of baseness or ingratitude.

As a communication with the friendly
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ly isles of Pelew is about to be renewed, there is every reason to hope that we shall yet receive a sequel to some of the preceding circumstances, with further particulars of a race of unenlightened people, whose sincerity, and strict adherence to the dictates of honour and religion, are at once a disgrace and a burlesque on the passions and pursuits of those who consider themselves as much nearer the standard of perfection.

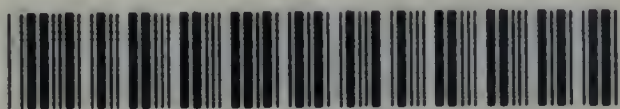
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