English Reprints.

EDWARD WEBBE,
Chief Master Gunner,

His Trauailes.
1590.

CAREFULLY EDITED BY

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1 May, 1868.

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CHRONICLE
of
some of the principal events
in the
LIFE, ADVENTURES, and TIMES
of
EDWARD WEBBE,
Master Gunner, sometime Chief Master Gunner of France.

* Probable or approximate dates.

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

1553. July 2. Mary succeeds to the crown.


1558. Nov. 17. Elizabeth begins to reign.

"My father . . . did prefer me to the service of Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent Ambassadore into Russia. . . . and vpon him I was daylie attendant. . . . There [at Moscow] I staide 3 yeeres attendant on my master." pp. 17, 18.

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

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

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

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

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

"The fourth day of May in the yeere aforesaid, I im barked my selfe at Grauesend, in the good ship called the Harry of London, and hauing had a prosperouse voy age arrived at the bay of S. Nicholas [in the White Sea] in Russia the 10 day of July following, and immediately I sent in post to the Emperour to aduertise of my comming and traveiling then thorowe the countrey, I with my company came to the Mosco where the Empeour kept his court, the 23. of August, and forthwith gaue the Secretary to vnderstand my arriuall, who aduertised the Emperours Maiestie, and the first day of September, being a solemn feast among the Russes, I came before the Emperours Maiestie, sitting in his seate of honour, and hauing kissed his hand, and done the Queenes Maiesties commendations, and delivered her Graces letters and present, he had me to dinner, which I accepted, and had much honour done vnto me both then and all the time of my abode in Russia."
Captain Jenkinson appears to have remained in or about Moscow, until his return, which accounts for Webbe only alluding to the Russians, while with him.

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

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

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

1571. May 24. Moscow was burnt by the Crim-Tartars. For two ac-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1572. Oct. 32. Don John retakes the town of Tunis from the Turks. The Spaniards had held the citadel already. Webbe states he was there in the Royal, p. 35.

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

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


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

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1578</td>
<td>First campaign against Persia, from Erzeroum; under Mustapha Pasha (the conqueror of Cyprus). It is indecisive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1579</td>
<td>Mustapha Pasha has a second indecisive campaign. He is recalled, and arrives in Constantinople 9 May 1580. Sinan Pasha appointed in his stead.</td>
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<td>1582</td>
<td>June 1—July 22. Amurath circumcises his eldest son Mahomet. Feasting for 52 days and nights. See J. von Hammer.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Webbe makes a wonderful piece of fireworks, pp. 28, 29.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 14. ‘The tall shippe called the Susan of London [24 guns]: the Master whereof was Richard Parsons’ leaves Blackwall, and</td>
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<tr>
<td>1583</td>
<td>Jan. 14. Embarks, at the Isle of Wight, Master William Harborne and suite; being the first English Ambassador to the Great Turk.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar. 29. Mr. Harborne lands at Constantinople, and remains there 5 years. The remainder of Webbe’s travels while in slavery can only be put down as they are given to us. Ali Pasha—a renegade Christian—with 60 gallies attempts his native town in Calabria. From the Army in Persia, Webbe is taken by Damascus to Cairo. At the Red sea, sees the Grand Maria. Thence to Goa in the East Indies. Thence by Bethlehem, Jerusalem, &amp;c., again t Damascus Thence to the land of Prester John [? Turkistan] ‘within 18 degrees [=1050 miles] of the sun.’ Returns to Constantinople in time of famine, ‘an English penny loaf of bread being worth a crown of gold.’ Is imprisoned in iron chains, grievously pinched with extreme penury at Constantinople, with 2000 other Christian slaves. Webbe, on behalf of 500 Christians slaves, works through a 14 feet wall. Their attempt to escape is discovered, and they are punished, p. 28.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1588</td>
<td>May 3. ‘Soone after the death of the great Basha’ Mr. Harborne ransoms about 20 English men, ‘whereof’ Webbe ‘was one of the last.’ Journeying towards England, he came by land to Venice. Then singularly enough, goes southward through Italy. At Padua, he is tried for a heretic. At Ferrara, he is well entertained. At Bologna, an Englishman, a Catholic Bishop, Doctor Poole, shows him great friendship. At Florence, he meets another Englishman, Mr. John Stanley. At Rome, he is 19 days in trouble with the Pope and Cardinal Allen, but they let him pass, giving him 25 crowns. The English College however make a fool of him and imprison him three days, from which he is delivered by another Englishman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Aug.</td>
<td>He is reviled with lying rumours as to the success of the Spanish Armada.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>Mr. Harborne and suite leave Constantinople; return-</td>
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ing home via the Danube, Poland, and the Hanse towns.

**Hakluyt, i. 400.**

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

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

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

May 1. at 35. Webbe arrives in England, after 13 years absence.

May to Nov. Visits his friends.

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


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

THE TRAVELS OF EDWARD WEBBE.

INTRODUCTION.

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

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

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

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

By the good providence of God, the scale has been turned. Victoria benignly rules an Eastern Empire.
more populous than that of Amurath; fosters colonies larger and richer—richer not only in gold 'that perisheth,' but in all the constituents of human happiness, all the elements of human progress—than ever possessed Philip II.; and is enthroned in the hearts of a people more united and infinitely more powerful than were ever the subjects of her great predecessor, Elizabeth.

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

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

EDWARD WEBBE HIS TRAUAILES.

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

I. As a separate publication.

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


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

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

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

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

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

I. As a separate publication.

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

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

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

LONDON,
Printed by Ralph Blower, for Thomas Pauier, & are to be solde at his shop in Corn-hill, at the signe of the Cat and Parrats, ouer against Pопeshead alley, nere the Royal Exchange.
Whoever has read
the Bible, and has
been at all in touch
with the spirit which
moved and affected
the minds of the
authors of that sacred
book, will be struck
with the similarity
of the influence
which actuated
them in the midst
of the Sodomian
world, and which
rules the minds of
men now.

The grand support to, and
basis of the opinions of
the best men of the world,
is, the promise of peace,
and eternal salvation to
those who believe in
the Son of God, and
obey his precepts; and
who are filled with the
Holy Spirit, and are
members of his Church.

And whosoever has
been the recipient of
this blessing, will feel
his God's presence
and power, in every
employment of his life;
and his confidence in
the promise, will give
him a serenity of
spirit which nothing
can disturb.

And if all the world
were to pass away,
and the sun to move
from his orbit, and
the moon to fall from
its sphere, and the
stars to be scattered
in confusion, and
the whole world to
sink into the
bottomless abyss
of space, and the
sea to dry up,
and all the elements
of nature to be
altered, and
transformed, and
changed, and
mutilated; yet
would this promise
of eternal life and
salvation, remain
unfulfilled, and
eternal death
continue to reign.

And besides this,
whosoever has been
the recipient of this
blessing, will feel the
great power of God's
grace, in his heart,
and his soul; and
the love of God,
and of his Saviour,
will draw him to
himself, and lead him
forward, and
unite him
in the society of
the saints, and
the Church of
Christ; and
evince his
attachment to the
true Church of
Christ, by
living in the
habit of prayer,
and obedience to
the gospel,
and the precepts
of Christ, and the
doctrines of the
Church.
The Epistle to the Reader.

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

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

Your Loving cuntreman,

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

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

Onsidering (most Gracious and dread Soue-
raigne) the wonderful prouidence of Al-
mightie god shewed towards your High-
nesse since the time of your most happie
and prosperous raigne, aswell in the pre-
feruation of your Maiesties perfon from the handes
of your highnesse enemies, as also, in defending this small
Angle or Realme of Englande from the force of for-
raine foes: and the continuall blessings of peace and
plentie, with which euer since, he hath in bountifull
fort maintained it: I coulde not therefore but (ac-
cording to my dutie) tenderhumble thankes to almighty
god for the fame when to my great comfort, euen in
the midft of my thraldome in Turkie, I did heare it
most truely reported by a Christiane Captiue, and
your Highnesse Clemencie, byhim highly commended.
The Report of whose fame truly discribed, aswell in
the administartion of iustice, and supporting of Christian
religion, as also in relieuing and succouring the poore
distressed members of this lande, gave me just cause to pray heartily for my deliverie, and to long inwardly, vntill I came to see your highnesse (my dread Soueraigne) and this my Native Cuntrey: and now having obteyned my long expected wish. I doe in all humblenesse prostrate my selfe, and this plaine discourse of my trauals to your most excellent Maiestie: wherein may be seen, that if in Turkie I would haue denied my Christ, or in my trauel I woulde haue forsaken my Prince to haue served for Spaine, thereby to haue become a trauytor to your Majestie and my native Cuntrey, I needed not to haue liued in want, but in great prosperitie: but for as much as almightie God hath now set me free from thraldome, and deliuered me from many daungers, and sent me into Englande, my desire is that I may be imploied in such service and affaires, as may be pleasing to God, and found profitable to my prince and cuntrey. And thus trufting your Highnesse will accept in good worth this true discourse (though rudely penned) I most humbly take my leaue, most heartily praying to the almighty god, for the prosperous health and continuall Raigne of your most excellent Majestie

Your Highnesses humble subject,

Ed. Web.
† Verfes Written vpon the Alphabet of the Queenes Maiesties name.

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

R Enowned Queene, your highnesse subiectes joy,  
E uen for to see the fall of all your foes:  
G od of his mercy fshielde you from annoy  
I ntending treasons, fstill for to disclose:  
N one of vs all, but wil moft duely pray,  
A lmightie God preferue you night and day.

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

There I made my abode some space in the head Cittie of Russia called Musko, in which their building is all of Firre, except the Emperors Court, which is of lime and flone. They execute very sharpe lawes among themselues, and are a kinde of Tyranous People as appeareth by their customs, of which, among many other, these I specially noted: (viz.) that if any man be indebted one to another and doth not make payment at his day and time appointed: the officers may enter vpon the debtors, and forceably breake down their houses, and imprison them in grievous fort where judgment shal presently passe against him, which is with a mallet of wood he shall haue so many blowes on the fhinnes or on the fore-heade, as the Judge shall awarde: and this punishment shall be inflicted sundry daies upon him. The Turks do also vfe to beate Debtors with a Mallet, but not in that fort, for in Turkie they are beaten for debt vpon the foles of their feet with a Cane, or elfe a Cudgell, if
that paiment be not made by a day. I also noted that if any Nobleman do offend ye Emperor of Russia, the faide Nobleman is taken and imprisonned with al his Children and kinffolkes, and the firt great froft that commeth, (for the Cuntery is wonderfully cold and subiecf to much froft) there is a great hole made in the Ife ouer some great Riuier, and then the partie principal is put in, and after him his wife, his Children, and all other his kins-folkes; and fo leave none of his pofteritie to poffeffe his Lands or goodes, but the fame are bestowed vpon others, at the Emperors pleasure.

There I fłaide 3 yeeres attendant on my maifter, in which time the Crime-Tartarians [otherwise named the new Chriftians] made warre vpon the faid Cittie of Musko, which foone after was betrayed, and fpeadely burned, the People in great aboundance massacred, and the Tartarian Souldiers had wonderfull greate and rich fpoyles, in the fame: there was I at that time with vij. other Englishmen taken prifoners and for flaues were conueied to Caffa, where the king of the Tartarians abideth and keepeth a flatly Court: being conueyed thither, we were fet to wipe the feet of the kings horfes, and to become ordinarie slaues in the faid Court, to fetch water, cleaue wood, and to do fuch other drudgery. There were we beaten three times a weeke with a horfe tayle: and thus in this fort and miserable fervice we layed there fiue yeeres, then were we ransomed from thence by our friendes, where we paide every man 300. crownes, which is vij. s. vj d. a piece of English money. Among that people called ye Tartarians, I noted especially this one thing, that their Children being new borne, do never open their eyes untill they be ix. dayes and ix nights olde. Thus being ransomed as is aforesaid, I returned home into England, where hauing flaied fome fmal time, I went againe into Russia in the hart of maifter Kings of Ratcliffe with thirty faile of ships more in our Company, at
which time her Maiefties shippe called the Wiltoughby was our Admirall, and the Harry appertayning to the company of the Marchants, was our Vice-admirall, Master William Burrow then being our Captaine and master: in which our voyage we met with v. Rovers or men of war, whom we set vppon, and burnt their Admirall, and brought those ships into Narr, and there the men ware massacred in this manner by the Russians: first great stakes druen into the grounde, and they spitted vppon Powles, as a man woulde put a Pig vppon a Spitte, and so vij. score were handled in that manner in very Tyranous fort. We vnlaoded our bourthen at Narre, and tooke in our lading for our commodities, but the ship wherein I was (which is called the Hart) hauing sayled but xij. miles from thence, stroke vppon a Rocke, whereby the ship and goodes were lost, the residue of the fleet had no harme, and all the men saued their liues by taking themselues into the Boat of the fame ship.

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

But heere fortune began to lowre on me againe, and turne her wheele in such fort against me, as I that was soone after brought to liue in greater slauerie than euer I did before, for we hauing saflie arived at Alexandria, dischargeed our burthen: and fraughted our ship with great flore of that Countrey commodities, and returning back to Legorne, suddeinly in the way, we met with Fiftie faile of the Turkes Gallies: with which Gallies, we fought two dayes and two nights, and made great slaughter amongst their men, we being in all but three score men very
weake for such a multytude, and having lost 50. of 60. men, faintnes conftrayned vs for to yeeld vnto them, by reafon we wanted Winde to help our felus withall, and the Calme was so great a helpe vnto them, as there was no way for vs to ecape. Thus did the Turkes take the ship and goodes, and in the fame found x of vs liuing whom they tooke Prisoners and presently stripped vs naked, and gaue vs 100 blowes a picee for prefuming to fight againft them.

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

First we were shauen head and face, and then a shirt of Cotten and Breeches of the fame put vppon vs, and our Legs and Feete left naked, and by one of the feet is each flaue chayned with a great chaine to the Gallie, and our handes ftaftned with a payre of manacles. The foode which I and others did eat, was very blacke, far worfe then Horfe-breade, and our drinke was flinking water, (vnlesse it be when we come to the places where we tooke in fresh water] at which time we supposd our diet to be very daintie.

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

Thus seeing my selfe ftil to continue in this miserable state, I was constrained for want of victualles, to discoyer my selfe and to shew them that I had good skill in Gunners art, which I thought would haue bin greatly wel efteeemed at the Turkes handes: but then for the fame, I was more narrowly looked vnto, yet somewhat better efteeemed of, then I was before. Not long after, the Turke made warres againft the Persians, and gathered vij. hundred thoufand men togither, and these were conducted by his chief Baffaes into Persia:
At which time (for that I had skill in Artillery) I was chosen foorth of the Gallies, to go with the Armie into the lande of Persia, and there to do the Turke service in the fielde, with whom I travailed on foote, but in our going thither, their dyed of our Armie, by meanes of great ficknes, diet, and want of Victuals, about the number of 300 thousand so that when wee came into persia. we were foure [hundred] thousand strong in the fielde, there wee refled vs one moneth, by which time, we (hauing hartened our selves) gaue a fierce assault against the Persians, where the Turks fide got the worft, and loft 60 thousand men. Then the generall ouer the Turkes Armie, whose name was Sannon Basha, fent vs so many fouldiers more as made vs 500 thousand strong, there we staide for a long time, making warres against the Persians, and the greate Cittie of Damafoo, where the Turke little preuayled: for if that the Turke were as pollitick as he is strong of power, the Persians were not able to refift him.

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

This Cittie at all times keepeth xl. thousand men continually in Souldiers pay, and are ready at one hours warning to serue under the Turke: there we staide to see the cutting or parting of the Riuers of Nilo, which is done once euery yeere, vpon the 25 of August. This Cittie standeth in the land of Egipt, and is under the gowernment of the great Turke. And there is a king ouer the faide Cittie, who is called the king of the great Caer, and ye Wize Roy or Lieftenant to the great Turke, and he is then present at the cutting or parting of this river of Nilo: at which time there is a great triumph, and euery Towne and Countrie round about to the value of a thousand mile, fend guifts and preffents to the king of the great Caer, in consideration
of the water which commeth to them from that Riuier of Nilo by meanes of the cutting of it, which is but once euery yeere.

It is therefore to be vnderstood, that in ye Land of Egipt it rayneth not at all, and all the grounde throughou't the lande of Egipt is continually watred by the water which vppon ye 25 day of August is turned into the countries round about, by means of ye wonderfull growing and fwelling of the water vpright without any flay at all, on the one fide thereof, it is to ye height of a huge mountaine, which beginneth to increase the 15. day of August, and by the 25. of the fame moneth it is at the higheft, on which day it is cut by ye deuiding of 2 pillars in a straunge fорт, neere to the cittie of ye great Caer. and fo turned as off from a great mountaine into the lande of Egipt : by meanes whereof, the Turke holdes all the land of Egipt in subie6ion to him felle, and might if he would dismisfe them cleane from hauing any water at all.

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

In the Land of Siria, there is a riuer that no Iew can catch any fisfh in it at all, and yet in the fame riuer there is great store of fisfh like vnto Samon trouts: But let a Christlian or a Turke come thither and fis'h for them, and eyther of them fhall catch them in great aboundance, if they do but put their hande into the water with a little bread, and an hundred will be about his hand.

Thus hauing feene a number of rare and most wonderful things, we went to the city of Agowa, which is ye head and chief city in all ye East Indies, there wee gaue Battell agaift ye Christlians yat keep ye faid city, which are Portugals, for that ye Town appertaineth to ye king of Portugal. In this place wee gaue Battle and loft xx thousand of ye Turksmen, and yet
could not obtain it: Neuertheles ye great Turks Lief-
tenant or Generall with his power toke a place called Armous, where they had great store of Treasure and Sowes of Silver.

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

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

But it is worthy of memorie, to fee how the women of ye towne did plie themfelves with their weapons, making a great maſſacre vpon our men, and murthered 500 of them in ſuch ſpeedie and furious fort as is won-
derfull: we needed not to haue feared their men at all, had not ye women bin our great overthrow, at which time I my felfe was maifter Gunner of the Admirals Gally, yet chainde greeuoufly, and beaten naked with a Turkifh fword flatling, for not ſhoooting where they would haue me, and where I could not ſhoot. It is
but a few yeares since, that in the cittie of Constantinople, there happned a great plague, where there dyed in fix monethes space, feuen hundred thousand perffons, at which time maifter Harbarn Ambaffadour for the Turkie company was there, and loft sundry of his feruants.

From Damasco we went into the land of prefter Iohn who is a Christian, and is called Christien de Sentour: that is, the Christian of the Gerdell; against this prefter Iohn I went with the Turks power, and was then their maifter Gunner in the field, ye number of Turkish Souldiers fent thither, was fiue hundred M. men who went thither by land, and pitched themfelfes in battaille ray at Saran, neere to the place wher the fon of prefter Iohn keepeth his Court. There Prefter Iohn with his power, flew of ye Turks the number of 60. thousand. onely by policie of drawe Bridges to let foorth water, made as fecrete fiewses for that purpofe, in which water fo many Turks perifhed. The next day following, the Turkes power did incompaffe Prefter Iohns fonne and tooke him prifoner, and fent him for a prefent to ye great Turks Court then being at Constantinople, but foone after, prefter Iohn himfelfe made an agreement betweene the greate Turke and his fonne, that the one shoulde not demaund tribute of the other, and fo his fonne was released and fent home againe.

This Prefter Iohn of whom I fpake before, is a King of great power, and keepeth a very bountifull Court, after the manner of that Cuntrey, and hath euery day to ferue him at his Table, fixty kinges, wearing leaden Crownes on their heads, and thofe ferue in the meat vnto Prefter Iohns Table: and continually the first dish of meat fet vpon his Table, is a dead mans fcull cleane picked and laide in black Earth: putting him in minde that he is but Earth, and that he muft die, and shal become Earth againe.

These 60 Kings are all his Wize Royes in feuerall places, and they haue their Deputies to fupply their Roomes, and thofe kings liue continually in Prefter
Iohns Courte, and go no furder then they may be still attendant vpon him, without leaue of their Emperour Prefter Iohn.

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

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

There is alfo a Beasf in the Court of Prefter Iohn, called Arians, hauing 4 heades, they are in shape like a wilde Cat, and are of the height of a great maffie Dog.

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

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

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

When Prefter Iohn is ferued at his table, there is no falt at all fet one in any falt fellar as in other places, but a loafe of Bread is cut crosse, and then two kniues are layde acroffe vpon the loafe, and fome falt put vpon the blades of the kniues and no more.

Being thus in the land of prefter Iohn, I trauelled within Eighteen degrees of ye Sun, euery degree being in distance three score miles.
I was at the Red Sea, at the place where Moyfes made passage with his wande for the Children of Israell, where I saw a Ship called the **grund Maria**, the drawes but xij foot water, and against this ship lx Gallies and ships haue fought at one time, and cannot conquer her: and this is vnder the gouernment of ye great Turke.

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

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

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

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

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

Thus I remained there with the rest, garded and daily watched, that we could stir no manner of way, there wee were suffered to worke vpon any manner of trade or occupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we did or made, we fold to the Turkes, and they gaue vs money for the fame: and thus were we suffered to worke vntill it were time to goe and gather Snowe, which is there vfed yearely of Custome to be gathered: for the Turke hath great summes of mony paide him for ye said snow, which is gathered and folde to his subiects for a peny the pound, which pound, is two pound and a halfe English: and this snow they use only to coole their drinke in the summer seafon. And no man may fell any snowe vntill the Turke hath folde all his.
Thus liuing in this flauish life as is aforefaid, diuers of vs complotted and hammered into our heads how we might procure our releafement: wherevpon I attempted with the consent of 5 hundreth Christians, fellow flaues with my felfe, to breake a wall of fourteene foot broad, made of earth, lyme, and fand, which we greatly moiftened with strong Vinegar, fo that the wall being made moif therewith through the help of a fpike of yron, fiue hundred of us had almost escaped out of prifon: but looke what fhall be, fhal be, and what God will haue, fhal come to paffe and no more, as appeareth by vs, for we hauing made meanes for our speedie flight, as we were issuing foorth, we were be- waryed by ye barking of a dog, which caufed the Turkes to arife, and they taking vs with the maner flopped vs from flying away, and gaue vs in recompence of our paines taking herein, feauen hundred blowes a peece vpon the naked skinne, viz. three hundred on the belly, and foure hundred on ye back.

Thus lying till Prifoner in the Turkes dungeons, it pleased God to fend thether for the releafement of me and others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maiſter Harborne, Ambaffadour thether for the company of Marchants, who to the great honour of Eng- land did behaue himſelfe wonderfull wisely, and was a speciall meanes for the releafement of me and fundrie other English captiues, who were fet at libertie foone after the death of the great Bafha: thus by the meanes of the said Maiſter Harborne I was set free from Thral- dome, and by him fet into England where I arrived on the first of May. 1589.

Whilſt I was remaining prifoner in Turkey, and kept in such flauish manner as is Rehearfed the great Turke had his fonne circumcifed, at which time there was great tryumphes and free liberty proclaimed for a hundred daies fpacę, thatany Nobleman,gentleman, tra- ueller, Christian or other, might freely (without being molefted) come and fee the tryumphes there vſed, which were woonderful: I my felfe was there constrained to
make a cunning piece of fire work framed in form like to ye Arke of Noy, being 24 yardes high, and eight yardes broad, wherein was placed 40 men drawn on 6 wheeles, yet no man seene, but seemed to goe alone, as though it were onely drawn by two Fiery Dragons, in which shew or Arke there was thirteene thousand feuerall pieces of fire worke

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

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

And though I were but a simple man voide of learning, yet still I had in remembraunce that Christ
dyed for me, as appeareth by the holy Scriptures, and that Christ therein faith: *He that denyeth me before men I will deny him before my father which is in heav en:* and againe he faith *Whofoever beleueth on me shall be fau ed, and haue life euerla sting.* This comfort made me refolute, that I would rather suffer all the torments of death in the worlde, then to deny my Saviour and Redeemer Christ Iesus.

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

From thence I came to ye Duke of Ferrara, where I was wel entertainted and liberally rewarded with a horfe and fiue and twentie Crownes for the fake of the Queenes Maiestie of England.

From thence with my Paftport, I came to Bolony in Italy, where I met with a popifh Bishop being an Englishman which shewed me great friendship, he is called Doctor Poole: from thence to Florence, there I met with an English gentleman named maister John Stanley. And from thence I went to Rome, there I was nineteene daies in trouble with the Pope, and the English Cardinall Doctor Allen, a notable Arch-papift, where I was often examined, but finding nothing by me, they let me passe, and ynderstanding that I had bene a captiue long time in Turkey, gaue me xxv. crownes. And before I went out of Rome, I was againe taken by ye English Colledge, and put there into the holy house 3 daies, with a fooles coate
on my backe, halfe blew, half yellowe, and a cockef‐
combe with three bels on my head, from whence I
was holpen by meanes of an Englishman whom I
found there, and presented my petition and caufe to
the Pope: who againe set me at libertie. From
thence I departed to Naples, where I met with a
Genowis, who apprehended me and brought me there
before ye vice-Roy, saying I was a man of great
knowledge and an English spie.

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

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

Thus feauen moneths I endured in this miferie,
and yet they coulde finde no caufe againft me, then I
wrote to the Vice-Roy to do me iustice, and he did
write to ye K[ing] of Spain to know what should be
done with me: whereupon the king of Spaine wrote
that I should be employed in a Gunners roome: then
was I entertained, and had 35 crownes a moneth, and
had ye Kinges pattent sealeed for the same, and then
vnderstanding that three ships were comming to‐
wardes England I departed and fled from thence
with them to my natiue Cuntry, in ye Grace of Lon‐
don by the helpe of one Nicholas Nottingham maifter
thereof. Thus came I into England with great joy
and hearts delight, both to my selfe and all my
acquaintance.
The report in Roome, Naples, and all over Italy, in my trauell which was at such time as the Spaniards came to invade England, after I had beene released of my imprisonment, as I passed through the streetes, the people of that parts asked me how I durst acknowledge my selfe to be an Englishman, and therevpon to daunt me, did say, that England was taken by the Spaniards, and the Queene of England (whome God long preferue) was taken prifoner, and was comming towards Rome to doe penance: and that her highnes was brought thither, through desarts, moist, hilly and foule places: and where plaine ground was, holes and hollow trenches were digged in the way of her Maiesties paffage, to ye intent that she might haue gone vp to the mid leg in oes or mire: with these speeches they did check me, and I said, yat I trusted God doubtles would defend my Prince better, then to deliuer her into the hands of her enemies, wherefore they did greatly renewe me.

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

Moreouer, in the land of Egipt neere to the Riuer of Nilo, within fixe miles of the Gran Caer. There are seauen Mountaines builded on the out side, like
vnto ye point of a Diamond, which Mountaines were
built in King Pharoes time for to keepe Corne in,
and they are Mountaines of great strength.

It is also faide, that they were builted about that
time when Iofeph did lade home his Brethrens Asses
with Corne, in the time of the great dearth men-
tioned in the Scripture: At which time, all their Corne
lay in those mountaines.

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

These Fishes are so fubtile, that swimming neere
the shore side, they will pull men or women fodeinly
into the Riuier and deoure them.

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

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

The Citie of Damosco is very fruitfull and greatly
replenished with al manner of fruites whatsoeuer, as
Pombgranades, Orenjes, Limons, Apples, Peares,
Plumbes, Grapes, and all other like fruites.

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

In Turkie no man may strike the graunde Cady,
that is their chiefest Iudg, if any man do strike him,
immediatly he loseth his Right Arme for his offence,
without Redemption.
At my coming over into Englande from Rome, I was faine to steal away, beeing then in yeerely fee to the King of Spaine, to be one of his chiefeest Gunners.

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

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

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

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

So that vpon Ash-wednesday laft, at his most Renowned Battle fought vpon the plaine of Saint Andrew neere vnto Dreux: I was in service vnder him, where I gaue 3 charges vpon the Enemie, and they in fleede thereof, gaue vs fifteene shot, and yet God be thanked peuailed not against vs.

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

But shortly after my first arrivall in Fraunce, I was hated by some lewde Gunners who envying that I
should have the Title to be Master Gunner in Fraunce, practised against me, and gave me poyson in drinke that night: which thing when the King vnderstoode, he gave order to the gouernor of Deepe, that his Phisition should presently see vnto me, who gave me speedely Unicorns horne to drinke, and there by God and the Kings great goodnesse, I was againe restored to my former health.

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

FINIS.
I. Capture of Danish Freebooters, by the English Russia Fleet, 10 July 1570.—In a letter to the Emperor of Russia, dated Narue, 15 July 1570, by Christoper Hodfdon and Captain William Burrough, there is a full description of the capture of these Danish pirates.

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

The fayd Wil. Borough when he came hither to Narue, finding here Christoper Hodfdon aforenamed, both the said Christo-pher and William together, in the name of Sir William Garrard and the rest of their whole companie and fellowship, did present vnto your highnesse of those Freebooters taken by our ships 82. men, which we deliuered here vnto Knez Voiuoda, the 13. of this moneth. One man of those Freebooters we haue kept by vs, whose name is Hauunce Snarke a captaine. And the cause why we haue done it is this: When we should haue deliuered him
with the rest of his felowe vnsto the Voiuodaes officers, there were of our Englifhmen more then 50. which fell on their knees vnsto us, requesting that he might be referred in the ship, and caried back into England: and the caufe why they fo earneftly in-treated for him, is, that some of other Englifhmen had bene taken with Freebooters, and by his meanes had their liues faued, with great favour besides, which they found at his hands. Wherefore if it please your highnesse to permit it, we will carie him home with vs into England, wherein we request your maiesties favour: notwithstanding what you command of him shalbe obserued. Hakluyt. i. 401. Ed. 1599.

2. THE BURNING OF MOSCOW BY THE TARTARS, 24 MAY 1571.

Two accounts are preferred in Hakluyt of this catastrophe.

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

Mafter Lane I haue me commended unto you. The 27. of Iuly I arrived here with the Magdalene, and the same day and houre did the Swallow and Harry arriue here also. At our comming I found master Proctor here, by whom wee understand very heannie newes. The Mosco is burnt every flicke by the Crimme the 24. day of May laft, and an innumerable number of people: and in the Englifh houfe was smothered Thomas Southam, Toftild, Wauerley, Greenes wife and children, two children of Rafe, and more to the number of 25. perfons were fifeled in oure Beere feller: and yet in the fame feller was Rafe, his wife, John Browne, and John Clarke preferred, which was wonderfull. And there went into that feller master Glover and master Rowley also: but becaufe the heate was fo great, they came forth againe with much perill, fo that a boy at their heelles was taken with the fire, yet they escaped blindfold into another feller, and there, as Gods will was, they were preferved. The Emperor fled out of the field, and many of his people were caried away by the Crimme Tartar: to wit, all the yong people, the old they would not meddle with, but let them alone, and so with exceeding much spoile and infinite prifoners, they returned home againe. What with the Crimme on the one fide, and with his crueltie on the other, he hath but fewe people left. Commend me to mitreffe Lane your wife, and to M. Locke, and to all our friends. Yours to command, Richard Vfcombe. Hakluyt. i. 402. Ed. 1599.

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

The greatest and mightieft of them [the Tartars] is the Chrim Tartar, (whom fome call the Great Cham) that lieth South, and
Southeastward from Russia, and doth most annoy the Countrie by often inusions, commonly once every yeare, sometimes entring very farre within the inland parts. In the year 1571. he came as farre as the city of Mosko, with an armie of 200000. men, without any bataille, or resittance at all, for that the Ruffe Emperour (then Iuan Vasilowich) leading foorth his armie to encounter with him, marched a wrong way: but as it was thought of very pur- pose, as not daring to adventure the field, by reaon that hee doubted his nobilitie, and chiefe Captaines, of a meaning to betray him to the Tartar.

The citie hee tooke not, but fired the Suburbs, which by reaon of the buildinges (which is all of wood without any ftone, brick, or lime, faue certein out roomes) kindled fo quickly, and went on with such rage, as that it consumed the greatest part of the citie almoft within the space of foure houres, being of 30. miles or more of compaffe. Then might you haue feene a lamentable fpectacle; besides the huge and mighty flame of the citie all on light fire, the people burning in their houfes and ftreates, but most of all of fuch as laboured to passe out of the gates farthest from the enemie, where meeting together in a mightie throng, and fo pressing euery man to preuent another, wedged themfelues fo faft within the gate, and ftreates near vnto it, as that three ranks walked one upon the others head, the uppermoft treading downe thoe that were lower: so that there perished at that time (as was fayd) by the fire and the prefie, the number of 800000. people, or more.

The Chrim thus hauing fired the Citie, and fedde his eyes with the light of it all on a light flame, returned with his armie, and sent to the Ruffe Emperour a knife (as was fayd) to flie himfelfe withall: obbraiding this loffe, and his desparate cafe, as not daring either to meet his enemi in the field, nor to truft his friends or subiects at home. Chap 19. 'The borderers of Russia.' fol. 66.

3. PRESTER OR PREESTOR JOHN, was the name given by the Europeans of the middle ages to a dynasty of suppos'd eastern potentates. The following account is the history of this legend:—About the beginning of the eleventh century, it began to be reported in Chriftendom that a certain king beyond Perfia and Armenia had been met by the spirit of a departed faint in a foreft; that he had been overawed into becoming a true believer; and that he had ordered all his subiects, to the number of 200,000, to adopt the fame faith. As time passed by, the report seemed to receive corroboration. Envoys pretending to come from the land in question arrived at Rome. Additional rumours, by what means nobody knew, found their way to the West. The man- ners and customs of this newly CHRISTIANIZED people were said to retain many traces of the old patriarchal times. The chief was both prieft and king, and was known on that account by the name of Prefter or Presbyter John. His tribe lived a peaceful
pastoral life, following their flocks through the desert, feeding upon flesh and milk, and being so destitute of corn and wine that they were unable in the prescribed manner to observe the fast-days, or to partake of the eucharist. Nor was the exquisite primitive simplicity of his kingdom adorned by substantial wealth and majesty. Unbounded treasures were at his command; many neighbouring nations were his tributaries; and he swayed supremely with a sceptre of emerald.

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

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

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

"Prester John by the grace of God all powerful king of all the Christians: to the Emperor of Rome and to the King of France, our friends, greeting. We wish you to know of our state and of government, that is to say, of our people and the different
kind of our animals. And because you say that our people do not agree in worshipping God as you do in your country, we wish you to know that we adore and believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are three persons in one deity and one God alone. And we certify and send to you by our letters sealed with our Seal concerning the state and manner of our land and of our people. And if you will come into our country, for the good that we have heard of you, we will make you lord after us, and will give you large lands and lordships.

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

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

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