

Bibliotheca Curiosa.

EDWARD WEBBE,

CHIEF MASTER GUNNER,

HIS TRAVAILES.

1590.

EDITED BY

EDMUND GOLDSMID, F.R.H.S.,
F.S.A. (SCOT.)

PRIVATELY PRINTED, EDINBURGH.

158c

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDWARD WEBBE HIS TRAUAILES.

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

1. [1590]. London. *Editio princeps*: It has no wood cuts. [Of this first edition the only Copy as yet known is that purchased at Nassau's sale by Mr. Jadis, at whose sale again it was purchased for £14 14s. *Grenville Catalogue, British Museum.*] See facsimile Title Page.
2. [1590]. London. *Printed by A. J. for VWilliam Barley, dwelling in Gratiuous streete neere leaden hall.*
1 vol. 4to.
A reprint of No. 1; with the addition of six woodcuts, one of which, repeated also as a frontispiece, represents Webbe as a young man walking.
3. 1590. London. *Second Edition. Newly enlarged and corrected by the Author. London. Printed for William Wright, 1590.* 1 vol. 4to.
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 faulte in number did negligently escape in Folio 3 [see page 18.] in these wordes 30 thousand for 300 thousand: and 50 thousand for 500 thousand. that faulte is truly amended in this Edition.' These alterations have been made in the present edition.

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

- I. 1868. London. *Arber's English Reprints.*
8vo.
- II. 1885. Edinburgh. *The Present Edition.*

THE

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

Wherein is fet fourth his extreame flauerie sust-
ained many yeres together, in the Gallies and wars
of the great Turk againft the Landes of Persia,
Tartaria, Spaine, and Portugall, with the
manner of his releasement, and comming
into Englande in May laft.

LONDON,

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



¶ Verses Written vppon the Alphabet of
the Queenes Maiesties name.

E ternall God, who guideth still your grace,
L engthen your life, in health and happie days.
I nspire your subjects heartes in euery 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 strength and stay
E uen he it is, by whom we holde our owne :
T urne not thy face from her in any way,
H ew downe her foes, and let them all be knowne.

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

FINIS.





¶ The Epistle to the Reader.

Vrteous Reader, I haue undertaken in this short discourse, to vtter vnto thee ye most part of such things as I saw and passed in the time of my troublesome trauell and 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 say, that thiese are but Lies and fables: and that it conteyneth nothing else: but to those I aunswere, that whatsoever is herein mentioned, he whosoever he be, that shall soe finde faulte, and doubt of the trueth hereof, let him but make inquirie of the best and greatest trauellers and Merchants about all this land: and they doubtles will resolue 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 greuous troubles. From my lodging at Black-wall, this nineteenth of May. 1590.

Your Loving cuntreman,
EDVVARD WEBBE.



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

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



Considering (most Gracious and dread
Soueraigne) the wonderful prouidence
of Almighty god shewed towards your
Highnesse since the time of your most happie and
prosperous raigne, aswell in the preservation of
your Maiesties person from the handes of your
highnesse enemies, as also, in defending this small
Angle or Realme of Englande from the force of
forraine foes: and the continuall blessings of
peace and plentie, with which euer since, he hath
in bountifull sort maintained it: I coulde not there-
for but (according to my dutie) tender humble
thanks to almightie god for the same when to my
great comfort, euen in the midst of my thraldome
in Turkie, I did heare it most truly reported by
a Christiane Captiue, and your Highnesse Clemen-

cie, by him highly commended. The report of whose fame truly discribed, aswell in the administration of iustice, and supporting of Christian religion, as also in relieuing and succouring the poore distressed members of this lande, gaue me iust cause to pray hartely for my deliuerie, and to long inwardly, vntill I came to see your highnesse (my dread Soueraigne) and this my Natiue Cuntrey : and now hauing obteyned my long expected wish. I doe in all humblenesse prostrate my selfe, and this plaine discourse of my trauels to your most excellent Maiestie : wherein may be seene, that if in Turkie I would haue denied my Christ, or in my trauel I woulde have forsaken my Prince to haue serued for Spaine, thereby to haue become a traytour to your Majestie and my natiue 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 employed in such seruice and affaires, as may be pleasing to God, and found profitable to my prince and cuntrey. And thus trusting your Highnesse will accept in good worth this true discourse (though rudely penned) I most humbly take my leaue, most hartely praying to the almightie god, for the prosperous health and continuall Raigne of your most excellent Majestie

Your Highnesses humble subject,

Ed. Web.



ED. WEBBE HIS TRAUAILES.

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

* A full account of Jenkinson's voyage will be found in Hakluyt's Collection of Voyages, vol. I. (Edition 1598-1600.)

kinde of Tyranous People as appeareth by their customs, of which, among many other, these I specially noted : that if any man be indebted one to another and doth not make paiement at his day and time appointed : the officers may enter vpon the debtors, and forceably breake down their houses, and imprison them in grievous sort where iudgment shal presently passe against him, which is with a mallet of wood he shall haue so many blowes on the shinnes or on the fore-heade, as the Iudge shall awarde : and this punishment shall be inflicted sundry daies upon him. The Turks do also vse to beate Debtors with a Mallet, but not in that sort, for in Turkie they are beaten for debt vpon the soles of their feet with a Cane, or else a Cudgell, if that paiement be not made by a day. I also noted that if any Nobleman do offend ye Emperor of Russia, the saide Nobleman is taken and imprisonned with al his Children and kinsfolkes, and the first great frost that commeth, (for the Cuntery is wonderfully cold and subiect to much frost) there is a great hole made in the Ise ouer some great Riuer, and then the partie principal is put in, and after him his wife, his Children, and all other his kins-folkes ; and so leaue none of his posteritie to possesse his Lands or goodes, but the same are bestowed vpon others, at the Emperors pleasure.

There I staide 3 yeeres attendant on my maister, in which time the Crime-Tartarians [otherwise

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

* The burning of Moscow by the Tartars occurred on the 24th May, 1571. (Hakluyt, I. 402 and 474 to 497. Ed. 1598-1600.)

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

By meanes of which ship so cast away, I lost all that I had, and then came againe into England, and gathered a new stocke, and in the Henrie of London I went to *Leuanra* 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

* For an account of the capture of the Danish freebooters see Hakluyt, I. 401. (Ed. 1599-1600.)

† Narva.

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 sort against me, as that I was soone after brought to liue in greater slauerie than euer I did before, for we hauing saffie ariued at *Alexandria*, dischargd our burthen : and fraughted our ship with great store of that Cuntrey commodities, and returning back to *Legorne*, suddainly in the way, we met with Fiftie saile of the Turkes Gallies : with which Gallies, we fought two dayes and two nights, and made great slaughter amongst their men, we being in all but three score men very weake for such a multytude, and hauing lost 50. of 60. men, faintnes constrained vs for to yeeld vnto them, by reason we wanted Winde to help our selues withall, and the Calme was so great a helpe vnto them, as there was no way for vs to escape. Thus did the Turkes take the ship and goodes, and in the same found x of vs liuing whom they tooke Prisoners and presently stripped vs naked, and gaue vs 100 blowes a peece for presuming to fight against them.

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

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

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

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

Persia : At which time (for that I had skil in Artillery) I was chosen fourth of the Gallies, to go with the Armie into the lande of Persia, and there to do the Turke seruice in the felde, with whom I traualled on foote, but in our going thither, their dyed of our Armie, by meanes of great sicknes, 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 felde, there wee rested vs one moneth, by which time, we (hauing hartened our selues) gaue a fierce assault against the Persians, where the Turke side got the worst, and lost 60 thousand men. Then the generall ouer the Turkes Armie, whose name was Sannon Basha, sent vs so many souldiers more as made vs 500 thousand strong, there we staide for a long time, making warres against the Persians, and the greate Cittie of Damasco, where the Turke little preuayled : for if that the Turke were as polittick as he is strong of power, the Persians were not able to resist him.

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

This Cittie at all times keepeth xl. thousand

men continually in Souldiers pay, and are ready at one houres warning to serue under the Turke : there we staide to see the cutting or parting of the Riuer of Nilo, which is done once euery yeere, vpon the 25 of August. This Cittie standeth in the land of Egipt, and is vnder the gouernment of the great Turke. And there is a king ouer the saide 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 Cuntrey round about to the value of a thousand mile, send guifts and presents to the king of the great Caer, in consideration of the water which commeth to them from that Riuer of Nilo by meanes of the cutting of it, which is but once euery yeere.

It is therefore to be vnderstood, that in ye Land of Egipt it rayneth not at all, and all the grounde throughout the lande of Egipt is continually watred by the water which vpon ye 25 day of August is turned into the countries round about, by means of ye wonderfull growing and swelling of the water vpright without any stay at all, on the one side thereof, it is to ye height of a huge mountaine, which beginneth to increase the 15. day of August, and by the 25. of the same moneth it is at the highest, on which day it is cut by ye deuiding of 2 pillars in a straunge sort, neere to the cittie of ye great *Caer*. and so turned as off from a great

mountaine into the lande of Egipt : by meanes whereof, the Turke holdes all the land of Egipt in subiection to him selfe, and might if he would dismisse them cleane from hauing any water at all.

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

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

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

Thus being chiefe maister Gunner in these Turkish warres, I was sent for againe by commandement of ye Turk to Dasmasco, where I staid all that winter with xx M. men. And from thence made prouision to make wars against the land of Prester Iohn,* who is by profession a Christian. In this land of Prester Iohn, when it doth raine, it continueth at the least one whole moneth. And in ye graund Caer, there is a plague once in euery vij yeeres, which commeth with such a fiercenes, that the most part of all the people there do die of the said plague: and people in great numbers lose their Eie sight 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 seized vpon a towne where the said Ally Basha was borne himselfe, named Trybusas, which is in ye confines of Calabria and vnder ye gouernment of the king of Spaine, at which towne he landed his Armie an houre before day, thinking to haue taken it by treason: and there vpon in great fury scaled the wals with lathers: but the watch beuraied vs, and on a sodaine, cried Arme, Arme, which was soone done: for euery man tooke him to his tooles and weapons of defence.

* The name given by Europeans to a dynasty of supposed Eastern Potentates. (See *Encyclopædia Britannica*.)

But it is worthy of memorie, to see how the women of ye towne did plie themselues with their weapons, making a great massacre vpon our men, and murdered 500 of them in such speedie and furious sort as is wonderfull: we needed not to haue feared their men at all, had not ye women bin our great ouerthrow, at which time I my selfe was maister Gunner of the Admirals Gally, yet chaine greuously, and beaten naked with a Turkish sword flatling, for not shooting 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 six monethes space, scuen hundred thousand persons, at which time master Harbarn Ambassadour for the Turkie company was there, and lost sundry of his seruants.

From Damasco we went into the land of prester Iohn who is a Christian, and is called *Christien de Senlour*: that is, the Christian of the Gerdell: against this prester Iohn I went with the Turks power, and was then their maister Gunner in the field, ye number of Turkish Souldiers sent thither, was fise hundred M. men who went thither by land, and pitched themselues in battaile ray by Saran, neere to the place wher the son of prester Iohn keepeth his Court. There Prester Iohn with his power, slew of ye Turks the number of 60. thousand. onely by policie of drawe Bridges to let fourth water, made as secrete slewes for

that purpose, in which water so many Turkes perished. The next day following, the Turkes power did incompasse Prester Iohns sonne and tooke him prisoner, and sent him for a present to ye great Turkes Court then being at Constantinople, but soone after, prester Iohn himselfe made an agreement betweene the greate Turke and his sonne, that the one shoulde not demaund tribute of the other, and so his sonne was released and sent home againe.

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

These 60 Kings are all his Wize Royes in seuerall places, and they haue their Deputies to svpply their Roomes, and those kings liue continually in Prester Iohns Courte, and go no furder than they may be still attendant vpon him, without leaue of their Emperour Prester Iohn.

In the Court of Prester Iohn, there is a wilde man, and an other in the high street at Constantinople, whose allowance is every day a quarter of

Raw Mutton : and when any man dyeth for some notorious offence, then they are allowed euery day a quarter of mans flesh.

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

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

In this Court likewise, there is Fowles caled Pharses foules whose feathers are very beautifull to be worne, these fowles are as big as a Turkie, their flesh is very sweet, and their feathers of all manner of 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 adioyning vnto prester Iohns Court, three score and seuen-teene Vnicornes and Eliphants all aliuie at one time, and they were so tame that I haue played with them as one would play with young Lambes.

When Prester Iohn is serued at his table, there is no salt at all set one in any salt sellar as in

other places, but a loafe of Bread is cut crosse, and then two kniues are layde acrossse vpon the loafe, and some salt put vpon the blades of the knives and no more.

Being thus in the land of prester Iohn, I trauell-ed within Eighteene degrees of ye Sun, euery degree being in distance three score miles.

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

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

When I was at Ierusalem, I saw the Sepulchre wherein (it is said) Christ was buried: it is as it were in a Vault, and hath vij Dores, and vij Roes of Marble steppes or stayres to go downe into the same, and then at the bottom of ye stayres, there is a faire Chapel, with an Altar and a Lamp burning continually day and night before it, and the Graue is full of white Earth, as white as Chalke, and a Toombe of ye same Earth made, and laide vpon Stone, wheron were sundry 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 Hospital within Ierusalem, which his Genezeries doe keepe : and this Hospital is to receiue all Pilgrims and trauellers to lodge in whensoever they come. And all that come to see the sepulchre doe pay ten Crowns a-peece, whereof the Turke hath but one, and the rest goes to the Church, and so they may stay there as long as they list to lodge in that new Hospital, and haue lodging, bread, victuals and water so long as they will remaine there, but no wine : such as come hither for Pilgrims haue no beds at all, but lie vpon the ground on Turkey Carpets, and before the sepulcher of Christ there is masse said euerie day, and none may say the masse there, but a man that is a pure virgin : there was one that dyed while I was there, that daily said and sung masse before the sepulcher, and he was an hundred and thirtie yeares of age before his death, and now another is in his Roome, but whether ye old man that dead is, or this which is now in the place to sing and say the said Masse, were pure Virgins I know not, but sure I dare not sweare for them, because they bee men, and flesh and bloud as other are.

After that I had thus long trauelled and spent my time in the warres and affaires of the great Turke, I was returned againe to Constantinople, where at my ariuall, a pennie loafe of Bread (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 cause presently to vse me in my office of gunnership, I was there imprisoned, where I found two thousand Christians pind vp in ston wals lockt fast in yron chaines, grieuously pinched, with extreme penury, and such as wished death rather then in such 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 in any way expert : and what we did or made, we sold to the Turkes, and they gaue vs money for the same : and thus were we suffered to worke vntill it were time to goe and gather Snowe, which is there vsed yearely of Custome to be gathered ; for the Turke hath great summes of mony paide him for ye said snow, which is gathered and sold to his subjects for a peny the pound, which pound, is two pound and a halfe English : and this snow they use only to coole their drinke in the summer season. And no man may sell any snowe vntill the Turke hath solde all his.

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

Tous lying still Prisoner in the Turkes dungeons, it pleased God to send thether for the releasement of me and others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maister Harborne, Ambassadour thether for the company of Marchants, who to the great honour of England did behaue himselfe wonderfull wisely, and was a speciall meanes for the releasement of me and sundrie other English captiues, who were set at libertie soone after the

death of the great Basha : thus by the meanes of the said Maister Harborne I was set free from Thraldome, and by him sent into England where I arriued on the first of May. 1589.

Whilst I was remaining prisoner in Turkey, and kept in such slauish manner as is Rehearsed the great Turke had his sonne circumcised, at which time there was great tryumphe and free liberty proclaimed for a hundred daies space, that any Nobleman, gentleman, traeller, Christian or other, might freely (without being molested) come and see the tryumphe there vsed, which were woonderful: I my selfe was there constrained to make a cunning peece of fire work framed in form like to ye Arke of Noy, beeing 24 yardes high, and eight yardes broad, wherein was placed 40 men drawn on 6 wheeles, yet no man scene, but seemed to goe alone, as though it were onely drawn by two Fiery Dragons, in which shew or Arke there was thirteene thousand seuerall peeces of fire worke

At the same time that I was Released, there were set at liberty about xx English men, whereof I was one of the last: some of them are at this present in England. My self and others were released by meanes of her Maiesties fauorable Letters, sent to ye greate Turke, brought by the foresayd Maister Harborne: some by the Raunsome money gathered at sundry times by the Marchants in the Cittie of London, for ye Godly

purpose : of which, some of their names that were released were these. Hamand Pan, Iohn Beer, Iohn Band, Andrew Pullins, Edward Buggins and others.

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

And though I were but a simple man voide of learning, yet stil I had in remembraunce that Christ dyed for me, as appeareth by the holy Scriptures, and that Christ therein saith : *He that denyeth me before men I will deny him before my*

father which is in heauen: and againe he saith *Whosoever beleemeth on me shall be saued, and haue life euerlasting.* This comfort made me resolute, that I would rather suffer all the torments of death in the worlde, then to deny my Sauiour and Redeemer Christ Iesus.

After my free libertie granted in Turkey, I intending my iourney towards England, came by land to Venice, where I met at Padua thirtie Englishmen studients, 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 disproued his witnesses, and they were found forsworne men, then was I set at libertie, and constrained 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 entertained and liberally rewarded with a horse and fure and twentie Crownes for the sake of the Queenes Maiestie of England.

From thence with my Pasport, I came to Bolony in Italy, where I met with a popish Bishop being an Englishman which shewed me great friendship, he is called Doctor Poole: from thence to Florence, there I met with an English gentleman named quaister Iohn Stanley. And from thence I

went to Rome, there I was nineteene daies in trouble with the Pope, and the English Cardinal Doctor Allen, a notable Arch-papist, where I was often examined, but finding nothing by me, they let me passe, and vnderstanding that I had bene a captiue long time in Turkey, gaue me xxv. crownes. And before I went out of Rome, I was againe taken by ye English Colledge, and put there into the holy house 3 daies, with a fooles coate on my backe, halfe blew, half yellowe, and a cockescombe with three bells on my head, from whence I was holpen by meanes of an Englishman whom I found there, and presented my petition and cause to the Pope: who againe set me at libertie. From thence I departed to Naples, where I met with a Genowis, who apprehended me and brought me there before ye vice-Roy, saying I was a man of great knowledge and an English spie.

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

Thrice had I ye strappado, hoisted vp backward with my hands bound behinde me, which strooke all the ioynts in my armes out of joynt, and then constrained to drinke salte water and quicklime, and then fine Lawne or Callico thrust downe my throate and pluckt vp againe ready to pluck my

hart out of my belly, al to make me to confesse that I was an English spie. After this, there were four bard horses prepared to quarter me, and I was still threatened to die except I would confesse some thing to my harme.

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

The report in Roome, Naples, and all ouer Italy, in my trauell which was at such time as the Spaniardes came to inuade England, after I had bene 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 preserue)

was taken prisoner, and was comming towards Rome to doe penance : and that her highness 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 passage, to ye intent that she might haue gone vp to the mid leg in oes or mire : with these speeches they did check me, and I said, yat I trusted God doubtles would defend my Prince better, then to deliuer her into the hands of her enemies, wherefore they did greatly reuile me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Citie of Damasco is very fruitfull and greatly replenished with al manner of fruites whatsoever, as *Pombgranades, Orenge, Limons, Apples, Peares, Plumbe, 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 flesh, and stricke their sworde in their flesh like vnto a Scabbard: and many other things of great daunger.

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

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

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

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

The City 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 preserved and kept as Monuments of great treasure.

Now to Returne where I left off, and declare vnto you in what sort I imploide my selfe since my first entring into englande: here 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 Maister Gunner in the fielde.

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

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

But shortly after my first arrivall in Fraunce, I was hated by some lewde Gunners who envying that I should haue the Title to be Master Gunner in Fraunce, practised against me, and gaue me poyson in drinke that night: which thing when the King vnderstoode, he gaue order to the

gouernor of Deepe, that his Phisition should presently see vnto me, who gaue me speadely Unicorns horne to drinke, and there by God and the Kings great goodnesse, I was againe restored to my former health.

Thus haue you hearde the manner of my cruell and most grieuous trauaile, miserie, slaverie, and crueltie which I haue suffred therein, the manner of some olde Ornamentes and the customes of such as dwell in forraine nations far off, and in places where our Saviour and his Apostles were resident, and preached vpon the Earth: my seruice done vnder ye great Turke, of *Persia, Tartarica, Grecia*, and other places 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 things which I could here discover vnto you: onely let this suffice, that I shall be glad, and do daylie desire that I may be employed in some such seruice as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntrey.

FINIS.