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Ebeling, Christoph Daniel

Hamburg, 1777

VD18 13177109

Anson's Voyage To Asia.

urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-15506

affair, banished *Peter Calas* for life, and acquitted the rest. The widow and the other sufferers are seeking such redress from the king as can now be had, to whom the sentence of the judges was not sent for confirmation as it ought to have been.

The judges have thought fit to suppress the trial; the widow petitions that it may be ordered to be laid before the parliament of *Paris* for a revision.

ANSON'S VOYAGE TO ASIA. *)

The *Centurion* and *Gloucester* left the coast of *America* the 6th of May 1742. The first land in *Asia* which they could reach was the Islands *Ladrones*, which are separated from *America* by near one third of the globe's circumference. But as the N. E. winds, which are favourable for this voyage, usually blow between the tropics, the *English* could not think that they could be longer about it than the *Spaniards*, who generally perform it in two months. In this confidence they put to sea, and stood for the latitude where the most regular winds are expected; but contrary to their expectations, the wind shifted so often, and they had so many strong gales at W. that, in seven weeks, they had not proceeded one fourth of the voyage. Several misfortunes happen'd during this tedious delay. Both ships sprung their masts in several places, and being obliged to keep their pumps continually going, on account of the leaks, it was an insupportable fatigue to the men, the greatest part of whom were weakened by the scurvy.

Tho' they had plenty of provisions, and tho' the rains constantly supplied them with water, and all possible care was taken to keep the ships cool and clean; yet the scurvy continued its havock, notwithstanding all their skill and precaution: and even when the fair winds set in towards the end of *June*, the voyage was far from being so speedy as might have been hoped. The *Gloucester* having lost her main-mast, sail'd heavily, and the *Centurion* lost near a month in waiting for her. When they were within 300 leagues of the port, the *Gloucester's* other masts were all carried away by some contrary gales

*) A Voyage round the World by George Anson Esq. compiled by R. Walter. Lond. 1748. 8. Gentleman's Magazine 1749.

gales; nor were her crew any longer able to free her of water; so that on the 15th of *August*, having taken out the most necessary stores, they set her on fire; and on the 23d they made some islands, which were the first that they had seen during this long passage; and on the 26th, while they were regretting the apparent difficulty of landing at any of these, and fearing they should not get sight of any others, they discovered three more. Of one of these, a boat, which they had taken, gave them such an inviting account, that they immediately set about landing their men. The sick, who were now grown very numerous, were, without delay, put on shore, being carried on the shoulders even of their officers, their humane Commodore setting the example. Here they recover'd surprisingly, so that all the time they stay'd, they lost but ten men. Their quick recovery was owing to the acid fruits and anti-scorbutic plants, as well as to the healthful qualities of the air. Beasts, fowls and vegetables were here in great abundance; and tho' there was no river, this defect was amply supply'd by several reservoirs of excellent water, issuing from the springs. But, as the finest countries are subject to some inconveniencies, so was this delightful island of *Tinian*. The chief is the want of harbours, for there is but one place where ships can anchor, which is to the S. E. and this, from the middle of *June* to the middle of *October*, is expos'd to very furious tempests, which blow at the new and full moons. The coral, which spreads all over the bottom of the sea, wounds the cables, so that they easily part in a strong current, or hard gale. This the *Centurion* experienced on the 22d of *September*, when a strong gust of wind broke her cables, and drove her from the coast, so that it was 19 days before she could get back again. As the greatest part of the ships company was on shore with Mr. *Anson*, only 108 men were on board, and most of them sickly. This was a number so unequal to the working of the pumps, and at the same time navigating the ship, that it was impossible for them to bring her sooner back to the island, where indeed she had been given over for lost. The Commodore, who at first shew'd no signs of uneasiness, was unable to conceal the emotion of his mind, when, some days after the ship's departure, he perceived two boats, which at first he imagined to belong to the *Centurion*, and feared that the ship was



foundered, and that the persons who had saved themselves in the boats, were all that remained of the crew. This conjecture, but especially the apprehension that all the expected glory and advantage of his hazardous expedition was irretrievably prevented, affected him so strongly that he retired to his tent, that he might have no witnesses to the grief and anguish which he could no longer suppress. Except this single instance of human frailty, which some persons have insolently censured, his constancy, his prudence, his serenity, and alacrity, justly excite our astonishment, and deserve our imitation: and from this he soon recover'd, resuming his usual chearfulness. He told his men, that, as the ship had not been able to regain the island, it was probable, that she was gone for *Chili*, and that the only means which remained to meet her there, was to saw the boat which they had taken through the middle, and lengthen it, so that it might be large enough to carry them all. He not only exhorted them to this work, but to encourage them in forwarding it, he himself condescended to be a workman. Most of the ship's carpenters happening to be on the island, they soon got tools and materials ready to join the two ends of the boat, when, on the 11th of *October*, the ship again appeared, and put an end at once to their labour and apprehensions. Mr. *Anson* immediately went on board, with the greatest part of his men; and tho' some days after, she was again driven off, the crew, being now stronger, brought her back into the road in five days. The sailors who had been left on shore, had already begun to refit the boat, which would conveniently have held their small number. But being at last once more got all together, they left this island, where they had experienced the greatest vicissitudes of joy and consternation. This last trip moved more prosperous, and they arrived at *Macao* on the 12th of *December*, which was the first friendly port they had seen during two years. The *Portuguese* governor shew'd himself both a weak counsellor and a timorous friend. For tho' he was inclined to favour Mr. *Anson*, his selfish dependence on the *Chinese* hinder'd him from doing it effectually. He advised him against going to *Canton*, to avoid a dispute with the inhabitants, who not being used to see ships of that force, would insist upon the same fees which merchant ships paid, and from which a man of war might justly think

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think itself exempt. Upon receiving this account, the Commodore sail'd to a small port called *Tupa*, and here he was put to infinite trouble in procuring necessaries from the *Chinese*, because they are strictly attached, by their interest, to the *Spaniards* of *Manilla*. They regarded the *English* Commodore as no better than a powerful pirate, and this, joined with the perfidy of their Mandarines, the venality of their courts of justice, and the fraud of their traders, occasion'd delay after delay, in fitting their ship, und buying the necessary stores and provisions. Mr. *Anson*, out of patience at being thus amused and retarded, was at length convinced that resolution and threatenings availed more than courtesy and presents. Accordingly, having at length procured the ship to be refitted and victualled, he left *Tupa* the 6th, and *Macao* the 19th of *April* 1743. Mr. *Anson*, when he was about to leave this port, had given out that he was going to return to *Europe*; and, tho' this seem'd impracticable at that season, by reason of the western monsoon, he had made his men believe, that, in confidence of their skill and the goodness of the ship, he would venture to attempt it; for he was persuaded that, if his intention upon the *Manilla* galleon had taken wind at *Macao*, the *Spaniards* would have been soon apprized of it by their *Chinese* friends. But, notwithstanding all his precaution to keep at such a distance from the *Philippine* islands as not to be perceived, they had often sight of him; and the governor of *Manilla*, at the instances of the merchants, had resolved to send out some ships of force against him. But the contrary winds, the slowness in fitting out the largest ship, and especially the dissensions among the proprietors, happily retarded this expedition. Nor was this the only scheme which proved abortive; for when the *Centurion* was repairing at *Tupa*, and consequently unable to make any defence, some *Spaniards* had form'd a design to send thither a kind of fire-ship, in order to destroy her. But tho' no more than 40,000 crowns was required for an action which would have saved a million, the merchants, suspecting the governor's view was only to get the money into his hands, could not be brought to advance it: and thus the *English* owed the safety of their ship to the mistrust and parsimony of their enemies.

Mr. *Anson* was no sooner at sea, than he called the ship's company upon deck, and told them his design



was to go and wait for the *Acapulco* ship at Cape *Spirito Santo*, that being her constant course in her return to *Manilla*; adding that, notwithstanding it had been given out that the sides of this ship were cannon proof, he was resolved, to be so near to her, that his shot should go in at one side and out at the other. This speech animated them with hopes of obtaining that inestimable prize, and they waited for her off the cape with unexampled patience for above a month. At length, on the 20th of *June*, the galleon, the object of their hopes, appeared, and so far from seeming to shun the *Centurion*, she boldly made towards her, and prepared for an engagement. But Mr. *Anson* keeping a continual fire both with his guns and small arms, at which his ship's company were very expert, he soon became master of this rich galleon. For the *Spaniards*, seeing a great many of the common men, and especially of the officers, fall, were so terrified, that they struck to an enemy who was not half their number. The name of the prize was the *Nuestra Señora de Cabadonga*; and she was much larger than the *Centurion*, mounted 36 guns and 27 padereroes, with 550 men. Don *Jeronimo de Montaro*, who was commander, was esteemed the best seaman of all the captains of the galleons, and was stiled General. The *English* were informed by their prisoners that the ship which last year had been detained at *Acapulco* had set out this year on her return sooner than ordinary, and must have reached *Manilla* before Mr. *Anson* got to the cape, where he had the good fortune to meet with them; so that the delays of the *Chinese* may be said to have hinder'd Mr. *Anson* from taking another prize. However, this being so immensely rich, they did not regret the disappointment. All that remained now, was to carry their prize to some port in *China*; and during the voyage, which proved but short, the prisoners were secured as far as humanity would admit of, an account being taken of the cargo, and the treasure put on board the *Centurion*. There were on board 1,313,843 pieces of eight, and 35,682 ounces of silver, which, with what the *English* had before taken from the *Spaniards*, amounted to 400,000*l.* sterling. And if to this sum we add the effects which were destroy'd, to the value of at least 600,000*l.* the charges of *Pizarro's* fleet, and the expences of repairing the fortifications in *America*, it will appear that the *Spaniards* were very great sufferers; and,

and, consequently, that expedition of the *English* fleet was of considerable advantage to their country. Mr. *Anson* arrived at *Macao* the 11th of *July*, and sailing from thence to the river of *Canton*, he advanced through the narrow passage which defends the harbour, notwithstanding a message which the *Chinese* had sent to forbid him. The two forts on each side the gut did not presume to make any opposition, with their batteries of 8 or 10 iron guns, as it must have been to their own loss. But the governors, as well as the pilot, whom Mr. *Anson* had compelled to carry his ship in, were punished for permitting what they could not prevent. This resolution, together with the vast riches of the *English*, raised their character with a timorous and mercenary people. Some *Spaniards*, who had been permitted to go on shore, spoke in very honourable terms of their conquerors. Mr. *Anson* had wrote to the Viceroy for a supply of provisions, and an audience. The first was deferred upon pretence of the heat; but in reality, to gain time for receiving orders from his court. The accustomed duty was also required: but upon the commodore's inflexible persisting in a refusal, the Mandarines, who had been deputed by the Vice-roy, made no further mention of it, requiring only that the *Spanish* prisoners should be set at liberty. Some seeming difficulties were made on this head, to give it the appearance of a favour, tho', in reality, the *English* wanted to be rid of them.

It would be no less tedious than unnecessary to relate all the Preparations the *English* made for their return, and the obstructions which the *Chinese*, whether out of fear, interest, or formality, were continually throwing in their way. In short, Mr. *Anson* was obliged himself to go up to *Canton*, and enforce his orders in person. Being now ready to depart, he sent the Viceroy another message, to remind him of an audience he had desired. This probably would have been again put off, but for the following accident: A fire broke out with such violence, that it soon spread thro' a great part of the city, and probably would have consumed the whole, had it not been extinguished by the boldness and activity of the *English* sailors. For this service they received the thanks of the citizens, and the Viceroy immediately granted an audience, in which all Mr. *Anson's* demands met with a ready compliance. Upon which, having

fold the *Spanish* galleon to some merchants at *Macao*, he left that port the 15th of *December*, and returned to *Europe* by the streights of *Sunda*, and the Cape of *Good Hope*. The 15th of *June* was the auspicious day which gave him a fight of his country, after an absence of three years and nine months, in an expedition which will be an eternal monument, that, tho' *prudence, intrepidity, and perseverance united, are not exempted from the blows of adverse fortune; yet in a long series of transactions, they usually rise superior to its power, and in the end rarely fail of proving successful.*

ACCOUNT
of Sir CHARLES GRANDISON'S rescuing
MISS HARRIET BYRON. *)

Mr. REEVES, to GEORGE SELBY, Esq;

Dear Mr. Selby,

Friday, Feb. 17.

NO one, at present, but yourself, must see the contents of what I am going to write.

But how shall I tell you the news; the dreadful news? —

You must not. — But how shall I say, *You* must not, be too much affected, when *we* are unable to support ourselves?

O my cousin Selby! — We know not what is become of our dearest Miss Byron!

I will be as particular as my grief and surprise will allow. There is a necessity for it, as you will find.

We were last night at the Ball in the Hay-market.

The chairmen who carried the dear creature, and who, as well as *our* chairmen, were engaged for the night, were inveigled away to drink somewhere. They promised Wilson, my cousin's servant, to return in half an hour.

It was then but little more than twelve.

Wilson waited near two hours, and they not returning, he hired a chair to supply their place.

Between two and three we all agreed to go home. The dear creature was fatigued with the notice every body

*) The history of Sir Charles Grandison. Lond. 1754. 6 Vol. 8.