

# The Golden Trade:<sup>A</sup>

O R,

A discovery of the Riuer *Gambra*, and  
the Golden Trade of the *Aethiopians*.

ALSO,

*The Commerce with a great blacke Mer-  
chant, called Buckor Sano, and his report of the  
houles couered with Gold, and other strange  
observations for the good of our  
owne countrey;*

Set downe as they were collected in traueiling, part of  
the yeares, 1620. and 1621.

By *Richard Ibbson*, Gentleman. K

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LONDON,

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*Nicholas Bourne*, dwelling at the entrance  
of the Royall Exchange, 1623.

many times, when he knowes the other out of hearing, to speake many disdainfull words against him: And of these people the Country is very full, being disperst and spread in such manner of families, as I sayd before, ouer the whole Country; and higher vp in the Country, as we here, and I shall shew hereafter, they are in on part principall, and haue excluded the Blackes, holding domination amongst themselves, and for the most part continually in warre. The language the *Fulbie* speakes, is different from the black-men, the women are our chiefest customers, for in most places, within the ebbing and flowing, where we did lie for Trade, we should be sure to haue their custome euery day, which was to bring vs new milke, fowre milke, and curdes, and two sorts of butter, the one new and white, the other hard and of an excellent colour, which we called refined butter, and is without question, but for a little freshtnes, as good as any we haue at home: all which they brought vnto vs, in great and small gourds like dishes, made vp very handsomely, and one thing let me not forget to giue them due praise in, that in what someuer you receiued from them, you should haue it so neate and cleane that in your milke you shold not perceiue a mote, nor in her butter any vncleanlines: nay the gourds, or dishes, they brought it in, on the very outsidess would shine with cleanness, and one the inward parts, without any nastinesse, and if at any time, by any mischance, there had beene a mote, or haire, which you had shewed vnto her, she would haue seemed to blush, in defence of her cleane meaning.

In noting of which, I haue diuerse times sayd, there

The cleanness of the Fulby women.

there was great difference betweene them, and the Irish Calios, although their manner of liues had great resemblance in following of their Cattle, and as they were out of heart in one ground, to remooue whole Townes together, which but few yeares since was the Irish Kernes true course of life; but with cleanness your Irish woman hath no acquaintance, and therefore I returne backe to my Tawny *Fulbie*: the commodities shee askt for were small beades, and poore knives of 16  $\text{d}$  a dozen, with other trifling things, but after they once saw and tasted of salt, which in their language they called *Ram-Dam*, there was no other thing could so well please them, although it were neuer so little; we found the variety of these things many times agreeable to our natures, and therefore gaue faire recourse vnto the people, for if we denide but one day to buy of them, we should want their company a weeke after, what earnest occasion someuer we had to vse them; and these things were to be had from none but them, because the *Maudingo*, or Blackeman applies himselfe, at no time, in keeping or preserving of Cattle, but leaues it to this painefull *Fulby*, whom I likewise leaue looking to his Heards, and come to the commanding Blacke.

*The Maudingo or Ethiopian, being the naturall Inhabitants, distinguished by the name of the Maudingos.*

THE people, who are Lords, and Commaunders of this country, and profess themselves the naturall Inhabitants, are perfectly blacke, both men

and women. The men for their parts, do liue a most idle kinde of life, imploying themselues (I meane the greater part) to no kinde of trade nor exercise, except it be onely some two moneths of the yeate, which is in tilling, and bringing home their countrey corne, and graine, wherein the preseruatiō of their liues consists, and in that time their labour is sore, as when I come to shew the manner, you may easily conceiue; All other times of the yeate, they liue wandring vp and downe, from one to another, hauing little vnderstanding, either to hunt in the woods, or fish in the waters; notwithstanding, both the one and the other, in their kindes, are infinitely replenished, that to their very doores wilde beasts doe resort, and about their houses in euery corner, abundance of *Ginny* hennies, and excellent partridges. In the heat of the day, the men will come forth, and sit themselues in companies, vnder the shady trees, to receiue the fresh aire, and there passe the time in communication, hauing onely one kind of game to recreate themselues withall, and that is in a peece of wood, certaine great holes cut, which they set vpon the ground betwixt two of them, and with a number of some thirtie pibble stones, after a manner of cōunting, they take one from the other, vntill one is possessed of all, whereat some of them are wondrous nimble: we do perceiue amongst them, that the ordinary people eate but one meale a day, and especially the younger sort, of what kinde soeuer; their houre of feeding being onely after the day light is in, and then with fires of Reedes, without the doore, they sit them round, and fall to their viands, which for the most part,

The time and manner of the peoples feeding.

part, is either Rice, or some other graine, boyled, which being brought vnto them by the women in goardes, hot, putting in their hands, they rowle vp into balles, and cast into their mouthes, and this is their manner of feeding: they doe seldome eate either flesh or fish, the rather because they cannot get it, then out of any will to refuse it: and although they are great breeders of such very poultery, as are our Cokes and Hennes, and haue vnderstanding to cut Capons, yet they are great sparers thereof, and preserue them to sell vnto vs, for small peeces of Iron, beades, and such like commodities, whereof if we be furnished, we can want none of that provision.

They will say, their feeding so seldome, is a great preseruatiō of their healths, & at that time, when the Sunne is downe, a fittest time for nourishment, auoyding especially, to eate in the heate of the day, as a thing wonderfull vnwholesome, wherein it may please you to giue me leaue to vtter my opinion, which happily comming to be scanned by men of knowledge, may produce some rules of better order, then hath hither-unto bene kept amongst our Nation, which hath caused the lesse of so many liues, and the dangerous sickenesse of others, therewithall laying a generall scandall vpon the countrey it selfe, to be both infectious, and vnwholesome for our bodies, whereas indeede it is our owne disorders: For the custome that hath bene hither-unto held, especially into this Riner, hath bene without any diligence, to make choise of such Sea-men for gouernours, as were men of temperance, and commaund, who being able to temper

A digression, by the Writer, for the better preseruing of mens liues and healths.

temper well themselves, might the better gouerne the rest, whose ill carriages may be thought to bee great prouokers for shortning other mens dayes: I will example it in this last voyage of ours. The Maister was a man knowne, for an excellent Artf-man, but in the gouernement of himselfe, so farre from knowledge, that after our passage from *Dartmouth*, which was in October, vntill the middle of March after, about which time he dyed, it will be iustified, he was neuer twenty dayes sober, in which time he went not alone, but our Chirurgion, with fundry other officers that were of his societie, with their liues payed for their riotous order. And further, whereas wee were diuided into two shallops, to goe vp the Riuer, the bigger whereof, the principall Factor was to follow his trade in, and carried therefore in the same a Butte of Sacke, and a Hogge-head of *Aqua vite*, making choice of such men as were the most able, and likeliest bodies to hold out, and he in himselfe carefull enough, as his experience might well aduise him, hauing spent many yeares, and made many voyages vpon that continent, to obserue both his diet of eating and drinking; yet towards his people, hee carried at sometimes, such an ouer-sparing hand, that they fell to practising how they might deceiue him, making vse of all aduantages, to steale those hot drinckes from him, which being purchased, as it were from his niggardly nature, they would diuide as a spoyle with great greedinesse amongst themselves, and thereby wrought their owne confusions, that of those people he carried with him, they eyther died before hee came backe to the shippe, or shortly

shortly after, some two at the most excepted, who escaped with dangerous sickenesse, whereas to the contrary (with thankfulness to God be it spoken) my selfe going vp in the other shallop, and wherein I must take such men as were giuen me, not such as I desired, obseruing amongst our selues, a louing and orderly course of diet, wherein euerie man had his equall share, notwithstanding I went one hundred and fortie leagues about the other shallop, returned without the losse of any one man, nay, in all my going to the highest, and in my returne to the Pinnace, I neuer had any man sicke, but vpon a second returne vp some part of the Riuer, some of my olde men being changed, two or three fell sicke, howbeit (with comfort be it spoken) there was not one man died that went with mee, and for my owne part, through the whole voyage, I was neuer one quarter of an houre sicke (blessed be the name of God.)

Now for my opinion concerning our diet, I hold well with the Blacks, that to feed at noone, is an vnholosome thing, for that the Sunne, being then in his extremitie of heate, and by his neerenes hauing such power ouer vs, the moisture that lies within the body, is exhaled to the exterior parts, to comfort, and refresh that, which the heate doth drie, and then are the interior parts most cold, and vnapt for nutriment, wherein experience makes vs see, that in the height and heate of the day we can with great facilitie, and without offence, drinke off such a draught, or quantitie of *Aqua vite*, or hot waters, as if we should drinke heere in our natiue countrey at one time, would certainly burne out our hartes;

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The Writers opinion concerning dyet.

The Careest  
must be lookt  
carefully to, in  
the setting  
forth.

nay more, wee finde our bodies naturally desiring,  
and longing for the same, (wherein I might heere  
shew some reason, partly to blame a neglect in our  
owne prouisions, but that I assure my selfe, it hath  
beene rather ignorance, to know what was good,  
then want of wil to prouide it) whereas in the coole  
of the morning, and againe in the euening, wee re-  
ceiue it with much more temperance, and a little gi-  
ueth satisfaction, so that my conclusion is, that to  
vs that haue able, and working bodies, and in our  
occasions are stirring, and labouring in the morn-  
ing early, and after the heate of the day, are the fit-  
test & conuenientst times to receiue our sustenance,  
wherin I shal euer submit my selfe to those of more  
able iudgement; and returning to the Blackes, let  
you know, that their vsuall and ordinary drinke, is,  
either the Riuer water, or from some Spring, how-  
beit they haue growne from trees, seuerall sorts of  
wine, or drinkes, as also the making of a kinde of  
liquor they call *Bullo*, made and compounded of  
their countrey corne; whereof more conueniently  
elsewhere I shall effectually satisfie you: and now  
goe on to shew you, the manner of their building,  
and fortifications.

They place themselves in their habitations round  
together, and for the most part haue a wall, though  
it be but of Reede, platted and made vp together,  
some fixe foot in height, circling and going round  
their Towne, with doores of the same, in the night  
time to be orderly shut, some of the houses within  
their walles, likewise are made of the same Reedes;  
but the better sort do build the walles of their hou-  
ses, of loame, which after it is tempered, and layde  
vp

vp together, carrieth a kinde of red colour with it,  
and doth remayne with an extraordinary hardnesse,  
that doubtlesse (as I haue carefully diuers times ob-  
serued) it would make the most excellent and du-  
rablest Bricke in the world, the whole countrey, ex-  
cept vpon the mountains, yeelding the same earth,  
whereof I will not forget to report one thing, which  
(in my opinion) deserues admiration: we doe finde  
in most places, hills cast vp by Ants or Emmets,  
which we heere call Ant-hills, some of them twenty  
foote of height, of such compasses, as will hold or  
containe a dozen men, which with the heate of the  
Sunne is growne to that hardnesse, as wee doe vse  
to hide and conceale our selues in the ragged tops  
of them, when wee take vp stands, to shoote at the  
country deere, or any other manner of wilde beast;  
the forme of their houses, whether it be loame, or  
Reed, is alwayes round, and the round roofes made  
lowe, euer couered with reedes, and tyed fast to ras-  
ters, that they may be able to abide, and lie fast, in  
the outragious windes and gusts, that come in the  
times of raine; for which purpose also they build  
their houses round, that the winde may haue the les-  
ser force against them; and the walles enclosing  
and keeping them in, is to auoyde those rauening  
and deuouring beasts, which in the night time range  
and bustle about, wherewith diuers times notwithstanding,  
they are much affrighted, and by making  
fires, and raising cries at midnight, to chase and  
drive them from their mansion dwellings. This for  
the meaner Townes or countrey Villages, but they  
haue likewise Townes of force, according vnto the  
manner of warre, they vse amongst them, fortified,  
and

Strange Ant-  
hills.

The manner of  
their building:

and trenchin, after a strong and defencible nature; whereof (they say) the countrey within is full, especially where the Kings are seated, the manner whereof wee haue seene in some two or three places, whereof I will instance onely one: which is the Towne of *Cassan*, against which (as I sayd before) the shippe which was betrayed did ride, and we in our last voyage, did make it our highest port for our bigger shippe. This Towne is the Kings seate, and by the name of the Towne hee holdes his title, King of *Cassan*; It is seated vpon the Riuer side, and inclosed round neare to the houses, with hurdles, such as our shepheards vse, but they are about ten foot high, and fastned to strong and able poles, the toppes whereof remaine about the hurdle; on the inside in diuers places, they haue rooms, and buildings, made vp like Turrets, from whence they within may shoot their arrowes, and throw their darts ouer the wall, against their approaching enemies; on the out-side likewise, round the wall, they haue cast a ditch or trench, of a great breadth, & beyond that againe a pretty distance, the whole Towne is circled with posts and peeces of trees, set close and fast into the ground, some sixe foot high, so thicke, that except in stiles, or places made of purpose, a single man cannot get through, and in the like manner, a small distance off againe, the like defence, and this is as they do signifie vnto vs, to keepe off the force of horse, to which purpose, it seemes to be very strong and auailable; considering what armes and Weapons they haue in vse, which in this place is necessary to be knowne.

They doe vsually walke, with a Staffe or lauelin

in

in their hands, which they call an *Assgie*, being a Reede of some sixe foote long, the head whereof is an Iron pike, much like our lauelines, but most of them very artificially made, and full of danger; others they haue also made, to throw like Irishmens darts, with heads all barbed, full of crueltie to the receiuer: each man likewise, about his necke doeth weare, in a Bandleere of red or yellow cloth, a short Sword of some two foot long, with an open handle, which Swords they make of the Iron is brought vnto them, as you shall heare when I speak of their Trades, and also the better sort of them, doe carry their bowe in their hands, and at their backs a case, very artificially made, which may hold within it some twenty foure of their arrowes, it is the smallest arrow vsed by any Nation, made of a Reed, about the bignesse of a Swans quill, and some two foote in length, there is fastned in the end, a small Iron with a barbed head, all which Iron is dangerously poisoned; the arrow hath neither nock nor feather, but is shot from the bowe, which is also made of a Reede, by a flat string, or rather stick smoothed and made euen, and fastned to the bow, so that the bowe and the string, are one and the selfe-same wood, whose force is small, and therefore the offence lies in the poyson, which neare hand vpon their cotten garments, may make an entry, but to a Buffe Jerkin, or any other sleight garment of defence, except it be very neare, can be little offense: we haue seene of them likewise on horse backe, the horses being of a small stature, bridled and saddled after the Spanish fashion, each man hauing his *Assgie* in his hand, and vpon the right side of his

The armes or  
weapons the  
people haue in  
vse.

The towne of  
*Cassan* with the  
manner of for-  
tification.

horse a broad Buckler hanging; and this is all the weapon in vse amongst them.

The Kings house is in the middle of the Towne, inclosed by it selfe, onely his wiues feuerall houses about him, to which you cannot come, but as it were through a Court of Guard, passing through an open house, where stands his chaire empty, vnlawfull for any but himselfe to sit in, by which hangs his drummes, the onely instruments of warre which we see amongst them, neither are these drummes without dayly imployment, for this is their continuall custome every night after it seemes they haue filled their bellies, they repaire to this Court of Guard, making fires both in the middle of the house, and in the open yard, about which they doe continue drumming, hooping, singing, and making a hethenish noyse, most commonly vntill the day beginnes to breake, when as we conceiue dead-sleepes take them, by which meanes sleeping one part of the day, it makes the other part seeme shorter, vntill the time of feeding come againe, otherwise it is done to that purpose in the night, to feare and keepe away the Lyons, and rauening beasts from about their dwellings, who are at that season ranging and looking out; for this manner of course is held amongst them, not only in their fortified Townes, but also in euery particular village, and habitation, whereof few of them is without such poore drums they vse, and if they be, yet they continue the custome, through hooping, singing, and vsing their voyces, but when it happens muske is amongst them, then is the horrible din, as I shall signifie when I ouertake their filders.

But

The inhabitants  
custome in the  
night.

But first I am to meddle with matter of state, and acquaint you concerning their Kings, and Go- uernors, for so I haue promist, the better to bring my worke together: In following of which, I shall entreate your patience to obserue with me, that the better to distinguish of their governments, I must deuide the Country by the Riuer, that howsoeuer the Riuer trends, which in his windings is surely all points of the compasse, I shall alwayes call that part, which lies to the southward in our intrance, the southside, and the other the northside, of both which sides, although we haue scene diuers petty Kings, and other Commanders, to whom we payd a kind of poore custome, which in the mouth of the Riuer, where the *Portingall* hath vsed, is not onely greater, but perremptorily demaunded, whereas about it is lesse, and rather taken as a curtesie presented, which morall kindnesse requires all strangers, comming in the way of amity, to begin with- all to a principall person, then any manner of custome, that is (as we say) exacted, but howsoeuer both below and especially about, it is of that poore quantity, it hardly deserues the paines of so long a rehearsal, whereby you may be drawne to conceit of a greater valuation: Those petty Kings I say, wherof I both saw, had conference, and did eate and drinke within sixe feuerall places, who had the title of *Mansi*, which in their language, is the proper name for the King, haue all reference to their greater Kings, who liue farther from those places; on the southside, the whole Country we past, euen to the highest we went, which you must needs conceiue to be very spacious, had all

reference

The great  
King of Caniore

The great King  
of *Burfall*.  
The great King  
of *Wolley*.  
These great  
Kings are like-  
wise tributa-  
ries to one  
great King far  
aboue in the  
land, as is re-  
ported to vs.

reference to the great King of *Cantore*: on the northside likewise, from the sea-side, about halfe the way we went vp, they did acknowledge the King of *Burfall*, and after him, to the highest wee went on that side, the great King of *Wolley*: These three Kings we hard of, but saw none of them; the report going that they were such as shewed not themselves abroad, but in a manner of pompe, and that they were not seene to hunt, but with great number of horse, and especially on the northside, whereof diuerse English haue beene eye witnesses, concerning *Burfall*, whose continuall aboode is neare the sea-side, whereby some recourse hath beene vnto him, there is warres betweene the one side of the Riuer, and the other, and especially from this King of *Burfall*, in so much as the people would tell vs, if hee could haue any meanes to transport his horse on the farther side, hee would in short time ouer-runne great part of that Country: the state of the great Kings, we may coniecture at, by the obseruances those small ones we see, doe assume vnto themselves, and those people they gouerne performe vnto them, for there is no man, but at his first approach before them, where they sit commonly in their houses, onely vpon a mat which is spread vpon the ground, but presents himselfe with a great deale of reuerence in kneeling on his knee, and comming nearer, layes first his hand vpon the bare ground, and then on the toppes of his owne vncovered head, many of them taking vp the dust, and laying it vpon his bare-head, which action he vseth twise or thrise, before hee come at him, where with a great deale of submission, he

layes

The reuerence  
of the people  
to the petty  
Kings.

layes his hand vpon the Kings thigh, and so retireth himselfe a good distance backe, and if it chance in any company or resort vnto him, that there be a Mary-bucke, which be their priests, as soone as they haue made their maner of salutation, they al kneele downe, and hee tals to praying, the substance of his prayer, being for the preferuation of the King, and in the same blessing him, to which himselfe crossing his armes, and laying his right hand ouer his lett shoulder, and his left hand, ouer his right shoulder, vseth the word *Amena, Amen*, many times ouer, which signifies the same as we say, *Amen*, or so be it: Nay more euen among the common people, when they meete in the high way, and are of acquaintance, hauing beene absent from one another, any distance of time, if there be a Mary-bucke amongst them, they put themselves into a round ring, and before any salutation fall on their knees to prayer: The Kings respect vnto them againe, is onely noddng of his head, which is acceptably receiued, how be it in manner of habite, there is betweene the King, and his people, little or no manner of difference; which may be imputed to the necessity of the Country, because it yeeldeth but one onely materiall, to make apparell of, which is a Cotten wooll, whereof they plant great fields, and it growes vp as it were our rose bushes, yeelding a cod, that in his full maturity, breakes in some part, and shewes a perfect white cotten, of which you shall find more written, when I come to rehearse what trees and plants wee finde amongst them.

The Religious  
ceremony of  
these people

Now for the manner of their apparell, it is soone related,

H

related,



The manner of  
their apparrell.

related, they being for the most part bare-head, onely bedecked or hang'd ouer with gregories, as they are likewise ouer their bodies, legges, and armes, which word I will presently expound vnto you, but first tell you their onely garments are a shirt, and a paire of breeches, their shirts made downe to their knees, wide in manner of a Sirplace, and with great sleaues, the which when he commeth to vse his bowe or armes, he rowlerh vp and it continueth fast at the shoulder, his breeches are made with so much stuffe gathered iust on his buttockes, that he seemeth to carry a cushion, and after a manner makes him stradle as he goes, bare-legged, and without shooes, except it be some few of them, who haue a peece of leather vnder their foot, cut like a shooe-sole, butted about the great toe, and againe about the instoppe. The Gregories be things of great esteeme amongst them, for the most part they are made of leather of seuerall fashions, wondrously neatly, they are hollow, and within them is placed, and sowed vp close, certaine writings, or spels which they receiue from their Mary-buckles, whereof they conceiue such a religious respect, that they do confidently beleue no hurt can betide them, whilst these Gregories are about them, and it seemes to encrease their superstition; the Mary-buckles do deuide these blessings for euery seuerall and particular part, for vpon their heads they weare them, in manner of a crosse, as well from the fore-head to the necke, as from one eare to another, likewise about their neckes, and crosse both shoulders about their bodies, round their middles, great

The description  
of their  
Gregories,  
which are  
charmes  
they receiue  
from their Mary-  
buckles.

more, as also vpon their armes, both aboue and below the elbow, so that in a manner, they seeme as it were laden, and carryng an outward burthen of religious blessings, whereof there is none so thoroughly laden as the Kings, although of all sorts they are furnished with some, both men and weomen, and this more I haue taken notice of, that if any of them be posselt of any malady, or haue any swelling or sore vpon them, the remedy they haue, is onely by placing one of these blessed Gregories, where the grieve lies, which they conceiue will helpe them: and for ought I can perceiue, this is all the Physicke they haue amongst them, and they do not onely obserue this for themselues, but their horses doe vsually weare of these about their neckes, and most of their bowes are hanged and furnished with them.

To countenance his state, he hath many times two of his wiues sitting by him, supporting his body, and laying their hands vpon his naked skin, aboue the wast, stroking, and gently pulling the same, wherein he seemes to receiue content, and because I haue named two of his wiues, before I proceed to any thing else, I will acquaint you with the manner of their women, the multiplicity of their wiues, and the wonderfull great subiection they liue vnder. The King hath an orderly allowance of seuen women, which are called wiues; that is which are esteemed, and acknowledged, and with a settled ceremony amongst them, distinguished from other women which he hath vse of, being absolutely tied, to attend his only pleasure, and therefore

The number  
of their wiues.

fore in relating of them according to our proper phrase, can giue them no other title but wife, of which it seemes he cannot exceede the number of seuen: for he hath the vse of other women, who are not of that esteeme, but rather as we may terme them Concubines, who are of a lower birth then his wiues, and these likewise are tyed vnto him, but not with that manner of strictnes the other are, so as it may appeare, they are rather taken for necessity then that it is a settled course amongst them, which word necessity I must better explaine, and therefore tell you, that it may and doth diuerse times fall out, that of his seuen wiues he hath none to accompany him in the nature of a wife; For vndoubtedly these people originally sprung from the race of *Canaan*, the sonne of *Ham*, who discovered his father *Noahs* secrets, for which *Noah* awaking cursed *Canaan* as our holy Scripture testifieth, the curse as by Scholemen hath bene disputed, extended to his ensuing race, in laying hold vpon the same place, where the originall cause began, where of these people are witnesse, who are furnisht with such members as are after a sort burthensome vnto them, whereby their women being once conceiued with child, so soone as it is perfectly discerned, accompanies the man no longer, because he shall not destroy what is conceiued to the losse of that, and danger of the bearer neither vntill she hath brought vp the child, to a full and fitting time to be weaned, which euery woman doth to her owne childe is she allowed, in that nature, the mans society, so that many times it fallies out, he hath not a wife to lie withall, and therefore as I said, hath allowance of other

Allowance of other women for necessity sake.

The reason of that necessity.

other women, for necessities sake, which may seeme not ouer-strange vnto vs, in that our holy Writ doth make mention thereof, as you may read in the 23. chap. of the Prophet *Ezechiel*, where *Ierusalem* and *Samaria*, being called by the names of the two Sisters, *Aholah* and *Aholibah*, being charged with fornication, are in the twentieth verse of the same chapter, said to doate vpon those people, whose members were as the members of Asles, and whose issue was like the issue of horses, therein right and amply explaining these people.

And for the chastitie of the wife, their lawes and customes are in that kinde very seuer, for, being taken or found an offendor, both she and the man shee shall offend withall, are without redemption sold away, in this sort they punish all great offences, putting none at all to death, and such as these are the people the *Portingalls* buy, and transport for the west *Indies*; as before I shewed you; and this is the course held amongst them all, howbeit euery man cannot haue so many wiues, but according as he hath means to keep them, and wherewithall to buy them: for first, euery man must compound or haue the Kings or chiefe Couernors consent, for any wife or wiues he shall take, to whom he must giue some gratification; and next he doth buy, with some commodity, the woman of her friends, and what hee giueth, doth remayne as we say in banke, if he should die, which shee hath for her better maintenance, or if shee please to buy a husband; for as euery man when he takes a maid, must buy her, so euery widdow, if shee will haue a husband, must buy him, through which occasion

Strict punishment for vnchastity.

The men buy their wiues.

The widdowes buy their husbands.

of buying the women, may be coniectured, they yeeld themselves to that subiection, but whence fouer it growes, I am sure there is no woman can be vnder more seruitude; for first they doe in matters, with such great staues wee call Coole-staues, beate and cleane both the Rice, and all manner of other graine they eate, which is onely womens worke, and very painefull: next, they dresse both that and all other manner of victuall the men doe eate; and when it is so ordered, they do bring and set it downe vpon the Matte before them, presently withdrawing themselves, and are neuer admitted to sit and eate with them; nay I can confidently affirme, that notwithstanding I haue eaten sundry times, both at the Kings, and other mens houses, where the men and wee haue put our hands in a gourd and fed together, yet neuer could I see any woman allowed to eate, albeit I haue earnestly entreated the same, for amongst their many wiues, there is none of them, but haue one especially accounted of, which hath a greater priuiledge by being about him, and more conuerfant then the rest, which by vs (though strangers) is easily discerned, and therefore amongst vs we call her his hand-wife, to whom wee vse alwayes to be more free, in those gifts we bestow, yet this wife is not allowed to eate in sight, but in another house, although she be priuiledged of many other labours: neither are the men euer seene to vse any manner of familiar dalliance with them, inso much as I thinke, there is hardly any Englishman can say, he euer saw the Blackeman kisse a woman. Againe, which is to be noted, notwithstanding this partialtie of affection, and so

many

The subiection  
of the woman.

No outward  
dalliance seene  
amongst them.

A strange  
report.

many of them of an equalitie liuing together, it is neuer heard, that they doe brawle, or scold, or fall out among themselves, howbeit it may be thought in matter that neare concernes them, they cannot chuse but haue many aggrecuances, contrary to our English prouerb that sayes, *Two women in one house*, &c. but there indeede I will make answer, That although they haue recourse all day together, in his great or more spacious haunt, yet for the night euery woman hath a seuerall house, whether she retires herselfe, to giue attendance as his desires shall leade him: and as they appeare before him, in the morning, their salutations are vpon their knees, laying their hands vpon his thigh. And lastly, for her apparrell, it is loose clothes partly-coloured, blew and white, of the same cotton stuffe the men weare, whereof the women commonly weare but one tuckt about their middles, and from the waste vpward, bare, in regard they are, for the most part, wrought, or rather printed vpon the backe, especially in the higher parts we were at, inso much as we haue seene some of them, with workes all ouer their backs, resembling right the printed lides and couers which wee see layd and set vpon our baked meates: whereof it appeares they take extraordinary pride, because they will turne themselves, wee should take notice of it, and be very well pleased, wee should touch or handle it, as a matter to be esteemed or set by; otherwise they cast another like cloth as they weare below, vpon their shoulders, which hangerh loose, and those be their garments, and without question, many, or the most part of them, very chary or nice in shewing of their secre-

The women's  
clothing.

cic; and to conclude, concerning women which the country vse they serue in marriages: the man doth commonly bespeake the woman vvhile she is young, and not of abilitie, vvhich is done and confirmed by the friends consent, yet vvhhen the time of her full age is come, or after vvhards, as they agree amongst them, the man getting his friends, which are all the youth, and younger sort of men hee can procure come to the Towne where the Maide is dwelling, in the beginning of the night, when the Moone shines, and as it were by violence lift her vp amongst them, and carry her avway, vvhho makes a noyse, striking, and crying out, which is seconded by the other young maides of the place, and thereupon the younger sort of men that are dwellers in the place gather themselves together, and (as it were) in reaskew of her, vvhile the other with great shouts and cries of reioycing, carry her quite away, to his place of abode, vvhwhere she remains vnseene for a certaine time, and vvhhen shee doth come forth, for certaine Moones, shee doth not shew her open face, but with a cloth cast ouer her head, couers all but one eye, after the maner of the Spanish vaile, obseruing herein a shamcfast modestie, not to be looked for, among such a kinde of blacke or barbarous people.

I proceed againe in the state of their Kings, there is no people in the world, stand more vpon their antiquitie, and dignitie of blood, then they doe betweene themselves, in so much, as once I had a quarrell grew in my house, betweene one of the Kings sonnes, vnder whose gouernement our habitation was, and another Blacke, who was a very lusty and able

able man, called *Boo John*, vnto whom for some respects, we carried a more kinde of extraordinary affection, wherein they braued one another, concerning their dignities of birth, the one was better, and the other was better, in so much as *Boo John* with his hand stroke the other in the face, and thereupon their weapons were drawne, and parties making on both sides, danger was like to ensue, but calling more of my company, with a small gunne I stept betwixt them, and made them feuer; howbeit the Kings sonne promised to returne the next morning, and take reuenge if he durst abide him, which the other promised to doe, and accordingly, notwithstanding all the entreaties I could vse, would not depart, but withall sent out for more people, who in the morning betimes came into him, all of them fitted with their countrey armes. And the Kings sonne also performed his word, for in the morning he came to the Riuers side, and called for a boate to passe ouer, bringing a liue biese with him, as a token vnto me from his father, as he was many times accustomed to send, and there came likewise with him diuerse people, and all with armes. I was very doubtfull some hurt would arise, and laboured *Boo John* to goe away: but all I could gaine of him, was, he would only sit downe in our yard, vnder the shadow of our houses, with his people about him, and if no wrong were offered him, hee would not stirre nor giue no offence; and by meanes I wrought so with the Kings sonne, carrying him and his company into my house, and vsing them curteously, that for that time I pacified them, and they parted quietly, howbeit not without threatning vpon another

A dangerous  
quarrell be-  
twixt them.

The manner of  
taking away  
their wiues,  
which in some  
sort is vlied in  
it. (and at this  
day.

The modesty  
of a new mar-  
ried woman

These people  
stand much  
vpon their dig-  
nity.

The certaine  
knowledge of  
their Kings &  
Gouernours  
and their suc-  
cessors.

Their titles of  
honor.

Wherein their  
Riches consists.  
Great Beggars.

The temporall  
people great  
drinkers of  
Aquavite.

other occasion; They doe distinctly know euery  
gouernement, who shall be King, and how the suc-  
cession shall hold, for in their temporall gouerne-  
ments, one brother doth euer succeed another, vn-  
till that race be extinct, & then the eldest brothers  
sonne beginnes: and likewise they doe distinguish  
of governments, as they are in age. For there were  
four brethren, the eldest whereof was the great  
King of *Cantore*, whom we neuer saw; the second  
was *Summay* King of the next place, and he came  
downe and was aboard our boate; the third bro-  
ther was King of the place where our Land-dwel-  
ling was, being a blinde man, at whose house I  
haue sundry times bene; and the fourth brother  
was called by the name of *Ferran*, and had the go-  
uernment of a countrey, where we had much and  
often trade, and for the most part, kept a Factor  
lying, and this notwithstanding hee was of great  
age, was the youngest brother, and as any of his  
brethren died, they were all to remooue still, giuing  
him the latter place: And this may suffice to shew  
their manner of gouernment; and for their seuerall  
Titles, they haue onely foure, which is *Manfa* for  
the King, *Ferran* a second name, *Ferambra* the  
third, and *Boo Iohn* the last; euery one of these foure  
being in their places commanders and gouernors:  
their greatest Riches consists, in hauing of most  
slaves, and from the King to the slave, they are all  
perpetuall beggars from vs, howbeit small matters  
will satisfie them, except it be in *Aqua vite*, for  
which they sell all things they haue, and the Kings  
and all will drinke, vntill they be starke drunke and  
fall fast asleepe, so that to describe the life of the  
King

Kings truly, is, that they doe eate, drinke and sleep,  
and keepe company with their women, and in this  
manner consume their time, vntill Time consumes  
them; with their great bloud and dignitie, whereof  
they so much esteeme: and with one example I will  
rehearse vnto you, I shal conclude concerning their  
kingly priuiledges.

The life of  
their Kings tra-  
dely described.

The King of *Cassan*, who was dwelling in the  
Towne, as wee came vp the Riuer, with whom I  
spake, drunke two or three bottles of *Aqua vite*, and  
had much familiar conference, who had liued in  
that place many yeares, howbeit hee was a lame  
man; after we returned downe the Riuer, and made  
stay at that Towne we found him nothing so mer-  
rily inclined, as he was at our going vp: whereupon  
demanding among some of the rest the reason, they  
told vs, hee was to be put out of his kingdome; en-  
quiring wherefore, they replied, there was another  
to come who had more right then hee, for sayd  
they, this was the Kings sonne, but begotten of a  
base woman, such as I described their concubines  
to be: howbeit the King left behinde him a sonne,  
who was right borne, but very young, which child  
being now come to yeares, craues his rightfull in-  
heritance, and the King of *Burfall*, vnder whom they  
hold, they could not deny, but had taken order to  
send him forward, so as he was lookd for euery day,  
and indeed, the second day after I was gone from  
the Towne, he came thither, bringing abundance of  
people with him, to whom the people of the Town  
resorted, leauing the old King, to whom notwith-  
standing the yong King sent, willing him to depart,  
and goe away with his wiues and family before he

The deposing  
of Kings.

came, or if he found him there, hee should suffer death, which at the first he refused to doe, saying he would enclose himselfe in his dwelling, and die there: but vpon better aduice, when he saw himselfe quite forsaken, he passed himselfe and wiues crosse the River, and left the Towne to this yong Commander, who after his entrance, our pinnace riding there, and being ready to come away, he sent for the Factor, to whom after some familiar conference, hee sayd, this town and kingdome hath been lost, but hereafter you shall see it found againe, promising at all occasions his friendly assistance.

But before I leaue them, it were necessary I should acquaint you, what manner of ceremony doth passe betwixt them and vs as we meet together; the King is commonly sitting on his mat, laid on the ground, vvhich in our entrance he obserueth, not offering to rise; and in regard he hath nothing but his Gregories on his head, vvhich are fast and cannot stirre, We do not vse to moue our hats, or vncouer our heads when we come to him, but drawing neare, somewhat bending our bodies, wee lay our hands vpon our breasts, vvhich he also performs to vs, and when we come neare, he holding forth his hand, we first take hold on the vpper part of one anothers hand, next on the lower part, and the third time ioyne palmes, and with a full hand shaking one another, downe wee sit by him, and after some small parlee concerning the cause of our coming, wherein the kings part is performed in state, whatsoeuer he speakes being related ouer by another: out goes our bottle of *Aqua vite* which must not be wanting, and a botle of Sacke too, it is so much the better, & calling

The ceremony  
used betwixt  
the King and  
vs, when first  
we meet.

calling for a small gourd to drinke in, which is their richest Plate; I first beginne, and drinking off a cup, present both the cup and bottle vnto the king, the bottle he deliueres presently to some one of principall regard with him, who by his appoyntment, after the king hath first drunke, and he himselfe not failing of his next turne, distributes it to the whole attendance, who for the most part stand round by the wall of the house, one after another taking his cup, and then to the king againe. In their drinking I obserue one thing, that in regard of the goodnesse or the strangenesse of the liquor, when he receiueth the first cup, before hee drinke himselfe, with the same liquor, he wets one of his principal Gregories: The king many times calling for a cup, breaks the square, otherwise they neuer leaue vntill the bottle is out, and so all the bottles we bring, wherein we haue one priuiledge, for after we haue tasted the first cup, which must be of euery bottle to secure them of danger; we need not vnles we please, take any more, but shaking of our heads when they offer a cup, it stands for a faire refusal, and so passeth to another; neither doe they suffer their women publicly to drinke amongst them, except some especially respected, who may sometimes haue a cup, but euen diuide it among themselves, so long as the bottle will run, and their brains hold out, which being the true and proper element, they delight in, I will heere in in their hearts desires leaue them, and proceed to a more ciuill, I am sure soberer sort of people.

He giues his  
chiefe Gregory  
drinke first.

Their women  
not allowed to  
drinke in  
publike, al-  
though they  
loue it well.

*The discourse of their Maribuckes or  
religious men.*

And so by order, I am now come to speake of  
13 their