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A C C O U N T
O F A
V O Y A G E
U P T H E

River de la Plata,

And thence over Land to

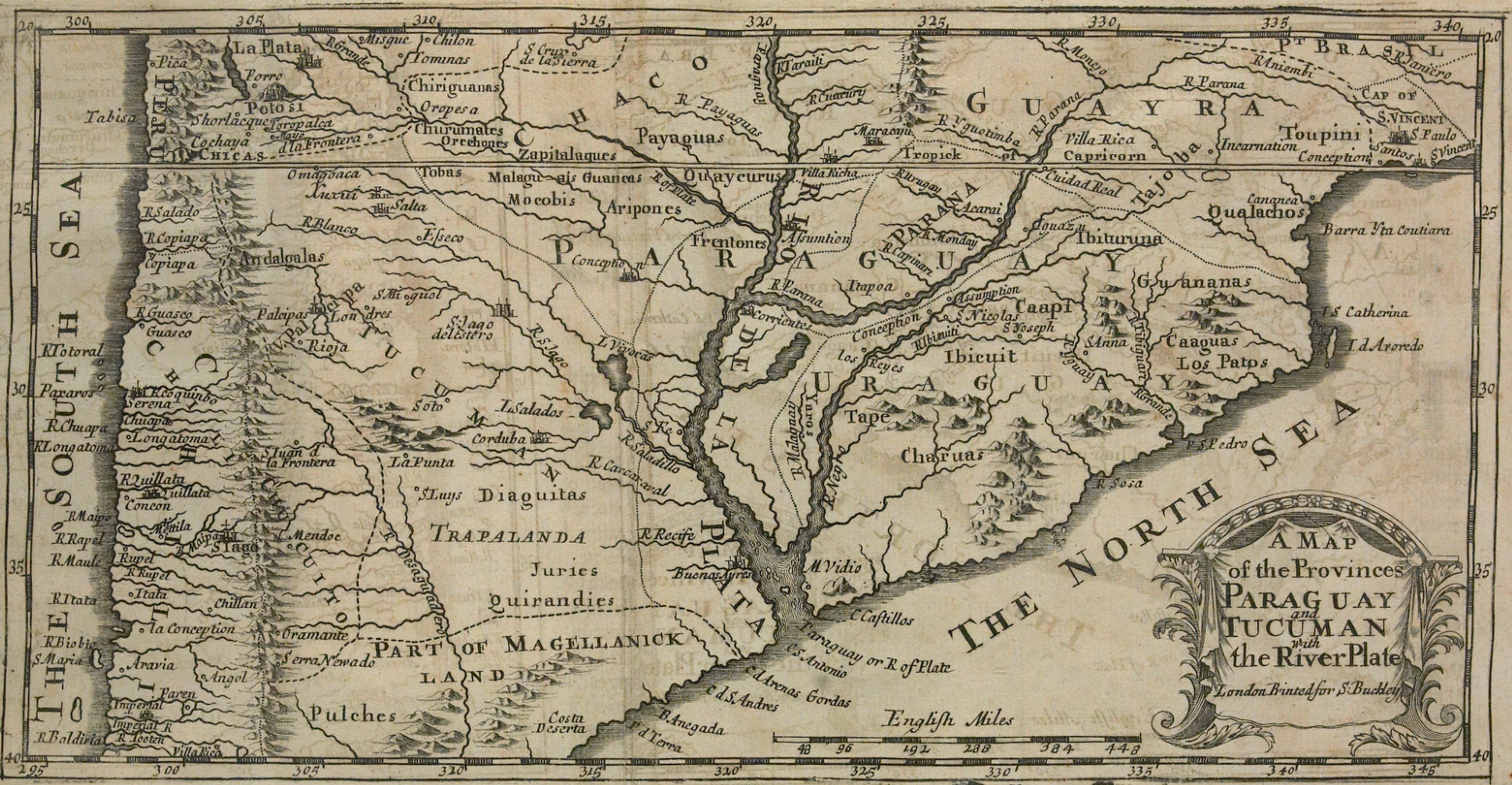
P E R U.

With Observations on the Inhabitants, as well *Indians* and *Spaniards*; the Cities, Commerce, Fertility, and Riches of that Part of *America*.

By *Monf. Acarete du Biscay.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for *Samuel Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* over against *St. Dunstons Church* in *Fleetstreet*. 1698.



A MAP
of the Provinces
PARAGUAY
and
TUCUMAN
with
the River Plate
London Printed for S. Buckley

English Miles
48 96 192 288 384 448

*A Relation of Mons. Acarete
du Biscay's Voyage up the
River de la Plata, and
from thence by Land to Pe-
ru, and his Observations in
it.*

THE Inclination I always had to Travelling, made me leave my Father's House very young, but I can truly aver, that I was not so much prompted to it out of pure Curiosity to see Forreign Countries, as out of hope to acquire Knowledge and improve my Judgment, which for the future might be helpful to me, not only in my private Concerns, but likewise render me more serviceable to my King and Country, which I declare was the chief aim of my Voyages. I went first into *Spain*, where I tarried long enough to learn their Language, particularly at *Cadiz*. The
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fancy took me to go to the *West-Indies* possess'd by the *Spaniards*, for I often heard them talk of the Beauty and Fertility of the Country, and the great Riches they draw from thence, but then I was at a loss how to bring it about, because 'tis very difficult for a Stranger, to get into those Parts; but there happen'd a conjuncture which favour'd my Design, and gave me an opportunity to proceed in it, in the manner following.

In the Yeat 1654, *Oliver Cromwell* at that time Protector of the Commonwealth of *England*, sent Admiral *Blake* with a Squadron of Men of War towards the Coasts of *Algarve* and *Andalusia*, to wait for the *Spanish Gallions* which come yearly from the *Indies*. The *Spaniards* being advertis'd of it, resolv'd to equip a Fleet with all expedition to oppose the *English* and frustrate their design: To this end they set out 28 Men of War and 6 Fireships, under the Command of *Don Paul de Contreras*, whose Vice-Admiral was the *Amirante Castana*, on board whom was I. The Two Fleets came up with each other, near *Cape St. Vincent*, where they staid many Days; but the *English* perceiving they

they were like to make nothing on't, retir'd towards *Lisbon*, and the *Spaniards* stood into *Cadiz*, where all the Gallions safely arriv'd in the beginning of the Year 1655, except the Vice-Admiral, which was lost in the Channel of *Bahama* upon the Coasts of *Florida*. Sometime after this, the *English* having declar'd War against the *Spaniards* more openly, by taking *Jamaica*, the Navigation to the *West-Indies* was a long time interrupted, by their Cruisers hovering about *Cadiz* and *San Lucar*, where they intercepted some Ships coming from the *Indies* richly laden, took one of the biggest, burnt Two others, and put the rest to flight, and afterwards went to the *Canaries*, where they burnt most of the Flota that were arriv'd there from *New Spain*, and waited orders from *Madrid*, what course to take to escape falling into the hands of the *English*. While these things were doing, the *Dutch* who sought to make their advantage of the Troubles that the *Spaniards* were embroil'd in, sent several Ships to the River de la Plata, laden with Goods and *Negroes*, which they took in at *Angola* and *Congo*: These Ships being arriv'd in that River, and come up to *Buenos Ayres*, the Inhabi-

bitants of the place who had a long time been depriv'd of the Supplies which they had us'd to receive by the *Spanish* Gallions (who were hinder'd by the *English* from making their constant Voyages) and were besides in want of *Negroes* and other things, wrought so far upon the Governor, that for a Present which they oblig'd the *Hollanders* to give him, and satisfying the Customs due to the King of *Spain*, they were permitted to Land and Trade there.

Mean time the *Spanish* Ministers (apprehending lest the Interruption of the Commerce, and the scarcity of *European* Commodities in those Parts, might constrain the Inhabitants to Traffick with Strangers (which 'tis their Interest to prevent as much as they can) thought fit to grant Licences to several of their private Subjects to Trade to the *Indies* at their own proper risque. A certain Cavalier took one of them, and fitted out a Ship at *Cadiz*, where I abode at that time; I resolv'd to go in her, and that the more willingly, because I had formerly had some dealings with him. He very friendly consented to let me go under his Name for his Nephew, that I might conceal my being a Forreigner, which

which if known would have stopt my Voyage, because in Spain they allow none but Native Spaniards to go in their Ships to the Indies. We set Sail about the latter end of December 1657, in a Ship of 450 Tuns, and in 105 Days reach'd the Mouth of the River de la Plata, where we met a French Frigate, Captain Foran Commander, and fought her some time, we got clear of her, and continued our Course till we came before Buenos Ayres, where we found 22 Dutch Ships, and among them 2 English, Laden homewards with Bulls-hides, Plate, and Spanish-wool, which they had receiv'd in exchange for their Commodities; a few days after 3 Dutch Ships going out of the Road encounter'd Captain Foran and another Frigate, nam'd the Mareschale, Commanded by the Chevalier de Fontenay; after a tough dispute the Hollanders boarded and took the Mareschale, put all her Men to the Sword, and the Chevalier among the rest.

This accident alarum'd those of Buenos Ayres, and made them put themselves upon their guard, imagining there was a French Squadron come into the River to make an attempt upon their Country.

Whereupon they resolv'd to send for aid to Count *Albaeliste*, Viceroy over all the *Spanish* Acquisitions in *America*, and Resident at *Lima* in *Peru*; who caus'd to be Levy'd with much difficulty and some force but 100 Men, which were not sent to them till 8 or 9 Months after, under the Command of *Don Sebastian Comacho*.

But before I proceed further, 'tis fit I deliver my Observations concerning the *River de la Plata*, and the Countries through which it runs. In those Parts 'tis call'd the *Paraguay*, but more vulgarly the *Great Parana*; probably, because the *River of Parana* falls into it above the *Town de las Corrientes*. Its Mouth (which lies in the 35th. Degree of *Southern Latitude*, on that side the *Equinoctial Line*) is between *Cape de Castillos* and *Cape de Sant Antonio*, about 80 Leagues distant from each, Tho' it be deep enough every where, yet the commonest Road into it, and most us'd by Sailors is on the North-side, from *Castillos* to *Montvidio*, which is half-way to *Buenos Ayres*, and notwithstanding there is a Channel on the same North-side from *Montvidio* to *Buenos Ayres*, the shallowest place in which is Three Fathom deep,
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yet for more security they cross over against *Monvidio* into the South Channel, because 'tis broader and has Three Fathom and a half Water at least where 'tis shallowest; all the bottom is muddy till within 2 Leagues of *Buenos Ayres* where lyes a sand Bank, there they take in Pilots to Steer them to a place call'd the *Posso* just before the Town, distant a Cannon shot from Shore, wherein no Vessels may enter but such as have a Licence from the King of *Spain*, those that have no such permission are oblig'd to Anchor a League Lower. The River is full of Fish, but of them there are hardly more than Seven or Eight sorts good to eat, there are abundance of those Whales call'd *Gibars*, and Sea-dogs who commonly bring forth their young ashore, and whose Skin is fit for several uses. I was told that about 5 or 6 Years before I came there, the River was almost dry'd up for some days, no Water being left but only in the middle Channel, and there so little, that they forded it on Horseback, as one may do most of the Rivers that fall into that *de la Plata*, in which there are likewise a great many *Otters*, with whose Skins the Savages Cloath themselves.

The Country on the North-side of the River *de la Plata* is of great extent, Inhabited by none but Savages, call'd *Charuas*; most of the little Islands that lie all along the River, and the Shore sides are cover'd with Woods full of Wild Boars. From *Cape de Castillos* up to *Rio Negro*, as well as from the same *Cape* to *San Paulo* bordering upon *Brazil*; the Coasts are uninhabited, tho' the Country, especially along the River seems to be very good, having little Rivulets running down from the Hills thro' the Plains. The *Spaniards* settled first there, but afterwards remov'd to *Buenos Ayres*, because 'twas troublesom to cross over the great *Parana* to go to *Peru*.

I went ashore frequently beyond *Rio Negro*, but never farther than Three quarters of a League into the Land, there are but few Savages to be seen, and they have their Habitations a good way up in the Country; those I met with were well made, with long Hair and very little Beard; they wear nothing but a great Skin, made of little ones patch'd together, that hangs down to their heels, and a piece of Leather under their Feet, ty'd with Straps about their Ankles. For Ornament they bind a Fillet of some Stuff

Stuff about their Heads, which comes over the Fore-head, and keeps the Hair back behind. The Women have no other Garment but these Skins, which they gird about their Wastes, and cover their heads with a sort of little Hats made of Rushes of divers Colours.

From *Rio Negro* to *Las Corrientes* and the River of *Parana*, the Country is well stockt with Bulls and Cows, there are likewise a great many Stags, whose Skins they sell for right Buff. The Savages about *Rio Negro* are the only People from the Sea thither, that keep Correspondence with those of *Buenos Ayres*, and the *Casiques*, and *Couracas* their Leaders do Hommage to the Governor of that Place, from whence they are but about 20 Leagues distant. One of the chief *Spanish* Towns on that side is *Las Siete Corrientes*, Situate near the place where the Two Rivers *Paraguay* and *Parana* meet. Upon the *Parana* stand Three or Four Villages pretty far from each other, and thinly Peopled, tho' the Country be very proper for Vineyards, and has enough planted already to supply the Neighbouring Parts with Wine. The Inhabitants are under the Jurisdiction of a Governour resident at
Assomption

Assomption, which is the most important Place the *Spaniards* have in that Country, and stands higher up the River *Paraguay* on the North-side; 'tis the Metropolitane City, a Bishop's Seat, has several very neat Churches and Convents, and is well crowded with Inhabitants, because a great many Idle People, and such as have run out their Fortunes and can live no longer in *Spain* or *Peru*, flock thither as to their last refuge. The Land abounds in Corn, Millet, Sugar, Tobacco, Honey, Cattle, Oaks fit for Shipping, Pine-Trees for Masts, and particularly in that Herb, call'd, the *Herb of Paraguay*, which they drive a great Trade in all over the *West-Indies*; and this obliges the Merchants of *Chili* and *Peru*, to hold a Correspondence with those of *Paraguay*; because, without that Herb (with which they make a refreshing Liquor with Water and Sugar, to be drank lukewarm) the Inhabitants of *Peru*, Savages and others, especially those that work in the Mines, could not subsist, for the Soil of the Country being full of Mineral Veins, the Vapours that rise out of the Ground suffocate them, and nothing but that Liquor can recover them again, which revives and restores

restores them to their former Vigour.

In this City of *Assomption*, the Native *Indians*, as well as *Spaniards* are very courteous and obliging to Strangers. They indulge themselves in a great deal of liberty, even with respect to Women, insomuch that being often necessitated to Sleep in the open Air (because of the excessive Heat) they spread their Quilts in the Streets, and lie there all Night Men and Women together: Nor is any Body scandaliz'd at it. Having plenty of all things good to eat and drink, they give themselves up to Ease and Idleness, and don't much trouble themselves with Trading abroad, nor heaping up Money, which upon that account is very scarce among 'em, contenting themselves with trucking the Commodities of their own Product, for others more necessary and useful to them.

Further up in the Country, that is to say, towards the Head of the River *Uruguay*, in the Province of *Paraguay*, are many Settlements of Colonies, transplanted thither by the *Jesuits Missionaries*, that prevail'd upon the Savages in those Parts, who are naturally tractable, to quit their Woods and Mountains, and
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come and dwell together in Villages in a Civil Community, where they instructed them in the Christian Religion, taught them Mechanicks, to play upon Musical Instruments, and several other Arts convenient to Human Life. Thus the Missionaries who came upon a Religious Motive, are largely recompenc'd by the Temporal Advantages which they reap here. The report that there were Golden Mines in this Country, could not be kept so close, but that the Spaniards had some inkling of it, and among others, Don Hiacinto de Laris Governor of Buenos Ayres, who about the Year 1653, had orders from the King of Spain, to go and visit these Settlements, and examine into their Wealth. At first coming he was well receiv'd, but perceiving that he began to inspect their Riches, and search for Gold, The Savages who are shy of working in the Mines, took up Arms, and forc'd him and his Followers Fifty in Number to depart out of their Country. The Governor who succeeded him, inform'd himself more particularly of this matter, and to make the best use of his Intelligence, inter'd into a strict Alliance with the Jesuits of his own Government, who hold a Correspondence

dence with the rest of their Fraternity ; and having got a considerable Sum from the *Hollanders* for leave to Trade at *Buenos Ayres*, he engag'd the *Jesuits* to furnish him 100000 Crowns in Gold for the value in Silver, for lightness of Carriage. But this same Governor. being arrested by the King of *Spain's* Order, for permitting the *Dutch* to Trade at *Buenos Ayres*, his Gold was seiz'd and confiscated, which upon trial prov'd to be much finer than that of *Peru*, and by this and other Circumstances, they discover'd, that it came from the Mines found out by the *Jesuits* in these parts.

On the South-side of the River *de la Plata*, from *Cape Sant Antonio*, to within 30 Leagues of *Buenos Ayres*, 'tis dangerous Sailing, because of the Banks that lie in the way ; wherefore they always go on the North-side, as I said before, till they come up so far, then they cross over to the South-side which is very safe ; especially when the Wind blows against the Stream of the River and swells it ; for when a Westerly Wind blows from Land, the Water falls ; however when the Water is at the lowest, 'tis Three Fathom and a half deep, both in the North and South Channels. When we
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enter'd into the South-Channel, we came in sight of those Vast Plains extending to *Buenos Ayres*, and thence as far as the River *Salladillo*, 60 Leagues short of *Cordoua*, which are so cover'd with all sorts of Cattle, that notwithstanding multitudes of them are daily destroy'd for their Skins, there's no Sign of their diminution.

As soon as we arriv'd at the *Cape of Buenos Ayres*, we gave notice of it to the Governor, who understanding that we had the King of *Spain's* Licence for coming thither, (without which he could not have permitted us entrance into the place, unless he would have broke his Orders) he sent the Kings Officers on board to visit our Ship, according to custom, which done, we landed our Goods, and laid them up in a Warehouse hired for the time of our stay. They consisted chiefly in Linnen Cloath, particularly that made at *Rouen*, which goes off very well in those Parts, as also in Silks, Ribans, Thread, Needles, Swords, Horse-shoes, and other Iron-work, Working-tools of all sorts, Drugs, Spices, Silk and Woollen-Stockings, Woollen-Cloath, Serges, and other Woollen-Stuffs, and generally in every thing

thing fit for Cloathing: which as we were inform'd were proper commodities for those Parts. Now the Custom is, that as soon as a Licens'd Ship (that is to say which has the King of Spain's Permission) comes to *Buenos Ayres*. The Governor of the Place, or Captain of the Ship dispatches a Messenger to *Peru*, with the Letters from *Spain*, if he has any; or else to acquaint the Merchants with his Arrival, whereupon some of them immediately set out to *Buenos Ayres*, or else send Commissions to their Correspondents, to buy up what Wares they think convenient. 'Twas my fortune to be sent upon both these Errands, for among a great many Letters that we brought with us, was a large packet from his Catholick Majesty for *Peru*, enclos'd in a Leaden Box, as all the Dispatches from the *Spanish* Court to the *Indies* commonly are; to the end, that if the Ship that carries them should be in eminent peril of falling into an Enemies Hands, they might be flung over board and sunk. This Packet was entrusted to my care, wherein were many Letters to the Vice-Roy of *Peru*, and other Prime Officers in those Parts, signifying the Birth of the Prince
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of *Spain*: and I carry'd likewise an Inventory attested by the Kings Officers at *Buenos Ayres* of the greatest part of our Lading, to be shewn to the Merchants of *Potosi*; they rely'd upon the conditions of the Goods as specified in the Inventory, and so bargain'd for what they lik'd, but their effects did not come to 'em till Seven or Eight Months after.

A Description of Buenos Ayres.

BEfore I say any thing of my Journey to *Peru*, I will set down what I observ'd remarkable at *Buenos Ayres* whilst I tarry'd there. The Air is pretty temperate, much as 'tis in *Andalouſia*, but not quite so warm, the Rains fall almost as often in Summer as Winter; and the Rain in sultry weather usually breeds divers kinds of Toads, which are very common in this Country, but are not venomous. The Town stands upon a rising Ground on the side of the River *de la Plata*, a Musquet shot from the Channel, in an Angle of Land made
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by a little Rivulet, call'd *Riochuelo*, which falls into the River a quarter of a League from the Town; it contains 400 Houses, has no enclosure, neither Wall nor Ditch, and nothing to defend it but a little Fort of Earth surrounded with a Ditch, which commands the River, and has Ten Iron Guns, the biggest of which is a Twelve Pounder; there the Governor resides who has but 150 Men in Garrison, which are form'd into Three Companies Commanded by Three Captains, whom he appoints at will, and indeed he changes them so often, that there is hardly a Wealthy Citizen but has been a Captain; these Companies are not always full, because the Souldiers are drawn by the cheapness of Living in those Parts to desert frequently, notwithstanding they endeavour to keep them in the Service by a large pay, which is *per diem* Four Reals, worth 1 s. 6 d. *English*, and a Loaf of 3 d. *ob.* which is as much as one Man can eat. But the Governor keeps 1200 tame Horses in a Plain thereabouts for his ordinary Service, and in case of necessity to mount the Inhabitants of the Place, and form a small Body of Cavalry. Besides this Fort, there is a little Bastion at the

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Mouth

Mouth of the Rivulet wherein they keep Guard, there are but Two Iron-Guns mounted upon it, each carrying a Three Pound Ball; this commands the place where the Barks come ashore to deliver or take in goods, which are liable to be visited by the Officers of the Bastion when they lade and unlade. The Houses of the Town are built of Earth, because there is but little Stone in all those Parts up as far as *Peru*; they are thatch'd with Canes and Straw, have no Stories, all the Rooms are of a Floor, and are very Spacious; they have great Court-yards, and behind their Houses large Gardens full of Orange-trees, Lemon-trees, Fig-trees, Apple-trees, Pear-trees, and other Fruit-trees, with store of Herbs, Cabbages, Onions, Garlick, Lettice, Peas, Beans, and especially their Melons are excellent, the Soil being very fat and good; they live very commodiously, and except Wine, which is something dear; they have plenty of all sorts of Victuals, as Beef, Veal, Mutton, Venison, Hares, Coneys, Pullets, Ducks, Wild-geese, Partridges, Pidgeons, Turtles, and all kind of Wild-fowl; and so cheap, that one may buy Partridges for a Penny a piece,

pièce, and the rest proportionably. There are likewise abundance of Ostriches who herd in Flocks like Cattle, and tho' they are good Meat, yet none but the Savages eat of them. They make Umbrellas of their Feathers, which are very commodious in the Sun; their Eggs are good, and every body eats of 'em, tho' they say they are of hard Digestion. I saw one thing of these Creatures very remarkable, and that is, while the Hen sits upon the Eggs, they have the Instinct or Foresight to provide for their Young; so five or six days before they come out of the Shell, they set an Egg in each of the four Corners of the place where they sit, these Eggs they break, and when they rot, Worms and Maggots breed in 'em in prodigious numbers, which serve to nourish the Young Ostriches from the time they are hatch'd till they are able to go farther for their sustenance. The Houses of the better sort of Inhabitants are adorn'd with Hangings, Pictures, and other Ornaments and decent Moveables, and all that are tollerably well to pass are serv'd in Plate, and have a great many Servants, *Blacks, Moulatos, Mestices, Indians, Cabres, or Sambos*, who are all Slaves. The *Negroes* come

from *Guinea*; the *Moulatos* are begotten by a *Spaniard* upon a *Black*; the *Mestices* are born of a *Spaniard* and an *Indian*, and the *Sambos* of an *Indian* Man and a *Mestice*, all distinguishable by their Colour and Hair. They employ these Slaves in their Houses, or to cultivate their Grounds, for they have large Farms stock'd with Grain in abundance, as Wheat, Barley and Millet, or to look after their Horses and Mules, who feed upon nothing but Grass all the Year round, or to kill Wild-Bulls, or in fine to do any kind of Service. All the Wealth of these Inhabitants consists in Cattle, which multiply so prodigiously in this Province, that the Plains are quite cover'd with 'em, particularly with Bulls, Cows, Sheep, Horses, Mares, Mules, Asses, Swine, Deer, and others, insomuch that were it not for a vast number of Dogs, who devour the Calves and other young Beasts, they would over-run the Country, they make so great profit of the Skins and Hides of these Animals, that a single Instance will be sufficient to shew how far it might be improv'd by good hands: The 22 *Dutch* Ships that we found at *Buenos Ayres* were each of them laden with 13 or 14000 Bull-hides

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at least, which amount to above 300000 *Livers*, or 33500*l. Sterling*, bought by the *Dutch* at Seven or Eight *Reals* a piece, that is under an *English* Crown, and sold again in *Europe* for Twenty-five *Shillings English* at least. When I express'd my astonishment at the sight of such an infinite number of Cattle, they told me of a Stratagem sometimes made use of, when they apprehend a descent from any Enemies, that is matter of greater wonder, and 'tis this; they drive such a Herd of Bulls, Cows, Horses and other Animals to the Shore-side, that 'tis utterly impossible for any number of Men, even tho' they should not dread the fury of those Wild Creatures, to make their way through so great a drove of Beasts. The First Inhabitants of this place, put every one their mark upon those they could catch, and turn'd 'em into their enclosures, but they multiply'd so fast, that they were forc'd to let 'em loose, and now they go and kill them according as they want 'em, or have occasion to make up a quantity of Hides for Sale. At present they mark only those Horses and Mules which they catch to tame and breed up for Service. Some Persons make a great Trade of sending

them to *Peru*, where they yield 50 *Pata-gons*, or 11 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* *Sterling* a pair. Most of the Dealers in Cattle are very Rich, but of all the Trading People the most considerable are they that Traffick in *European* Commodities. Many of whom are reputed worth 2 or 300000 Crowns, or 67000 *l.* *Sterling*. So that a Merchant worth no more than 15 or 20000 Crowns is look'd upon as a mean Retailer; of these last there are near 200 Families in the Town, that make 500 Men bearing Arms, besides their Slaves who are three times that Number, but are not to be reckon'd of any Defence, because they are not allow'd to bear Arms: Thus the *Spaniards*, *Portuguese*, and their Sons (of whom those that are born upon the place are term'd *Criolas*, to distinguish them from the Natives of *Spain*) and some *Mestices* are the Militia, which with the Souldiers in Garrison, compose a Body of above 600 Men, as I computed them in several Musters, for they draw out on Horseback Three times a Year near the Town on Festival Days. I observ'd there were many Old Men among them that did not carry Fire-arms, but only a Sword by their side, a Lance in hand, and a Buckler

ler at their shoulder: They are also most of them Marry'd and Masters of Families, and consequently have no great stomach to Fighting. They love their Ease and Pleasure, and are entirely devoted to *Venus*; I confess they are in some measure excusable in this point, for most of their Women are extreamly pretty, well shaped, and clear skin'd; and withal so faithful to their Husbands, that no Temptations can prevail with them to loosen the Sacred Knot: But then if their Husbands transgress, they are often punish'd with Poison or Dagger. The Women are more in Number than the Men. Besides *Spaniards*, there are a few *French*, *Hollanders*, and *Genouese*, but all go for *Spaniards*, otherwise there would be no dwelling for them there, especially those that differ in their Religion from the *Roman-Catholicks*, because the Inquisition is settled there.

The Bishop's Revenue amounts to 3000 *Patagons*, or 700 *l. Sterling per Annum*. His Diocess takes in this Town and *Santa Fe*, with the Farms belonging to both; Eight or Ten Priests Officiate in the Cathedral, which is built of Earth as well as the Houses. The *Jesuits* have a College; the *Dominicans*, the *Recol-*
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lects, and the *Religious de la Mercy*, have each a Convent. There is likewise an Hospital, but there are so few poor People in these Parts that 'tis of little use.

Monfieur Acarete du Biscay's Journey from Buenos Ayres to Peru.

I Left *Buenos Ayres*, and took the Road to *Cordoua*, leaving *Santa Fe* on my right hand, of which place take this account, 'tis a *Spanish* Settlement dependant upon *Buenos Ayres*, the Commander is no more than a Lieutenant, and does nothing but by order from the Governor of *Buenos Ayres*. 'Tis a little place containing 25 Houses, without any Walls, Fortifications, or Garrison, distant 80 Leagues from *Buenos Ayres* Northward, Situate upon the River *de la Plata*, large Vessels might come up to it, were it not for a great bank that obstructs the passage a little above *Buenos Ayres*. Nevertheless 'tis a very advantageous Post, because 'tis the only passage from *Peru*, *Chili* and *Tucuman* to *Paraguay*, and in a manner the Magazine of the Commodities

ties drawn from thence, particularly that Herb already spoken of, which they cannot be without in those Provinces. The Soil is as good and Fertile here as at *Buenos Ayres*; and the Town having nothing remarkably different from what has been observ'd of *Buenos Ayres*, I leave it, and proceed upon my Journey. 'Tis counted 140 Leagues from *Buenos Ayres* to *Cordona*, and because some parts of the Road are uninhabited for a long way together; I furnished my self at my departure with what I was inform'd I should stand in need of; so I set out having a Savage for my Guide, with Three Horses and Three Mules, some to carry my Baggage, and the rest to change upon the way when that I rid upon was tired.

From *Buenos Ayres*, to the River *Lucan*, and even as far as the River *Recife*, 30 Leagues, I pass'd by several Habitations and Farms cultivated by the *Spaniards*, but beyond *Recife* to the River *Salladillo*, I saw none. Let it be observed by the way, that these Rivers as well as all the rest in the Provinces of *Buenos Ayres*, *Paraguay* and *Tucuman*, that fall into the River *de la Plata* are fordable on Horse-back; but when the Rains or
any

any other accident swells them, a Traveller must either swim over, or else get upon a bundle in the nature of a raft, which a Savage hauls over to the other side. I could not Swim, and so was forc'd to make use of this expedient twice or thrice when I could not find a Ford. The way was this, my *Indian* kill'd a Wild Bull, flead the Hide off, stuffed it with straw, and ty'd it up in a great bundle with thongs of the same Hide, upon which I plac'd my self with my Baggage; he swam over hawling me after him by a Cord ty'd to the bundle, and then he repass'd and swam my Horses and Mules over to me.

All the Country between the River *Recife* and *Salladillo*, tho' uninhabited, abounds in Cattle and all sorts of Fruit-trees, except Walnut and Chesnut-trees; there are whole Woods of Nectarine-Trees, Three or Four Leagues in compass, that bear excellent Fruit, which they not only eat raw, but bake them, or dry them in the Sun, to keep, as we in *France* do Prunes: They seldom use any other than the Wood of this Tree for common firing at *Buenos Ayres*, and thereabouts. The Savages that dwell in these Parts are distinguish'd into two sorts, those that

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voluntarily submit to the *Spaniards* are call'd *Panpistas*, the rest *Serranos*, both cloathed with Skins, but the last set upon the *Panpistas* as their mortal Enemies wherever they meet with them. All Fight on Horse-back, either with Lances pointed with Iron or Bones sharpen'd, or else with Bows and Arrows, they wear Bulls-hides fashion'd like a Doublet without sleeves, to defend their Bodies. Their Chiefs that command over them in War and Peace, are call'd *Couracas*. When they take any one of their Enemies, alive or dead, they meet all together, and after they have reproach'd him, that either he or his Relations were the death of their Kindred or Friends, they cut and tear him into pieces, which they roast a little and eat, making a drinking Bowl of his Scull. They feed mostly upon flesh either raw or dress'd, and particularly Colts flesh, which they like better than Veal. They catch abundance of Fish likewise in their Rivers. They have no settled places of aboad, but ramble up and down, several Families together, and live in Tents.

I could not inform my self exactly what Religion they were of, but I was told that they look'd upon the Sun and Moon

Moon as Deities, and as I travell'd along, I saw a Savage upon his knees with his Face to the Sun, who cry'd out and made strange gestures with his Hands and Arms. I learn'd from the Savage that accompany'd me, that he was one of those they call'd *Papas*, who in the Morning kneel towards the Sun, and at Night towards the Moon, to supplicate those fancy'd Divinities to be propitious to them, to give them fair Weather, and Victory over their Foes.

They make no great Ceremony in their Marriages; but when a Relation dies, after they have rubb'd his body with a certain Earth that consumes all but the Bones, they preserve them, and carry as many of them as they can conveniently about with them in a sort of Chests, and this they do in token of their affection to their Kindred; indeed they are not wanting in good Offices to them during their Lives, nor in their Sickness and Death.

Along the River *Salladillo*, I took notice of a great many Parrats, or *Papagays*, as the *Spaniards* call them, and certain Birds, call'd *Guacamayos*, which are of divers Colours, and twice or thrice as big as a Parrat. The River it self is full

full of the Fish, call'd *Dorado*, which is very good to eat. There is also a Creature in it, whether 'tis Meat or Poyson no body knows, it has Four Feet and a long Tail like a Lizard.

From *Salladillo* quite to *Cordona*, you go along a very fine River, that abounds with Fish, which is neither wide nor deep, for it may be forded over. On the Bank of it you meet with little Plantations every Three or Four Leagues; which are like Country Houses inhabited by *Spaniards*, *Portuguese*, and the Natives, who have all the necessary accommodations of Life they can wish, and are very Civil and Charitable to Strangers; their principal Wealth is in Horses and Mules, in which they Trade with the Inhabitants of *Pern*.

Cordona is a Town Situate in a pleasant and fruitful Plain upon the side of a River, bigger and broader than that I have just spoken of: 'Tis compos'd of about 400 Houses, Built like those of *Buenos Ayres*. It has neither Ditches, nor Walls, nor Fort for its defence; He that Commands it is Governor of all the Provinces of *Tucuman*; and tho' it be the place of his ordinary Residence, yet he is wont now and then, as he sees occasion,

caſion, to go and paſs ſome time at *St. Jago de l' Eſtro*, at *St. Miguel de Tucuman*, (which is the Capital City of the Province) at *Salta* and at *Xuxui*. In each of theſe Villages there is a Lieutenant, who has under him an *Alcalde* and ſome Officers for the Adminiſtration of Juſtice. The Biſhop of *Tucuman* likewise uſually reſides at *Cordoua*, where the Cathedral is the only Pariſh Church of the whole Town; but there are divers Convents of Monks, namely of *Dominicans*, *Recolleſts*, and thoſe of the Order *de la Mercy*: and one of Nunns. The *Jefuits* have a College there, and their Chappel is the fineſt and richeſt of all.

The Inhabitants are Rich in Gold and Silver, which they get by the Trade they have for Mules, with which they furniſh *Peru* and other Parts; which is ſo conſiderable, that they ſell about 28 or 30000 of 'em every Year, which they breed up in their Farms. They uſually keep 'em till they are about Two Years old, then expoſe 'em to Sale, and have about Six *Patagons* a piece for 'em. The Merchants that come to buy 'em, carry 'em to *St. Jago*, to *Salta* and *Xuxui*, where they leave 'em for Three Years, till they are well grown and become ſtrong,

strong, and afterwards bring 'em to *Peru*, where they presently have Vent for 'em, because there as well as in the rest of the Western part of *America*, the greatest part of their Carriage is upon Mules. The People of *Cordona* also drive a Trade in Cows, which they have from the Countrey of *Buenos Ayres*, and carry to *Peru*, where without this way of Subsistence 'tis certain they would have much ado to live. This kind of Traffick makes this Town the most considerable in the Province of *Tucuman*, as well for its Riches and Commodities, as for the Number of its Inhabitants, which are counted to be at least 5 or 600 Families, besides Slaves who are three times the number. But the generality of 'em of all degrees have no other Arms but a Sword and Poignard, and are very indifferent Souldiers, the Air of the Country, and the Plenty they enjoy, rendring them Lazy and Cowardly.

From *Cordona* I took the way of *St. Jago de l' Esyro*, which is 90 Leagues distant from it. In my Journey I from time to time, that is Seven or Eight Leagues, met with single Houses of *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*, who live very solitarily ;

litarily; they are all Situate upon small Rivulets, some of 'em at the Corners of Forrests which are frequently to be met with in that Country, and are almost all of *Algarobe*-wood, the Fruit of which serves to make a Drink that is sweet and sharpish, and heady as Wine; others of them in open Fields, which are not so well stock'd with Cattle, as those of *Buenos Ayres*, but however there are enough of 'em, and indeed more than needs for the subsistence of the Inhabitants, who also make a Trade of Mules, and Cotton, and Cochineil for dying, which the Country produces.

St. Jago de l'Estro is a Town of about 300 Houses, without Ditches or Walls, Situate in a flat Country, surrounded with Forrests of *Algarobe*; it lies on an indifferently large River, Navigable for Boats, and pretty well stor'd with Fish. The Air is very hot, and sultry, which makes the Inhabitants lazy and effeminate. Their Faces are all very Tawny; they are mightily given to their Divertisements, and mind Traffick very little. There are 300 Men that can bear Arms, taking in as well the Savages as Slaves, and they are all ill Arm'd, and but very mean Souldiers.

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The greatest part of the Women are handsome enough, but have generally a kind of swelling in the Throat, which they call *Coto* in the Language of the Country, and seems to be much the same with what we call a Wen. The Country is sufficiently stor'd with Wild-Fowl, Venison, Wheat, Rye, Barley; and Fruits, as Figgs, Peaches, Apples, Pears, Plumbs, Heart-Cherries, Grapes, &c. There are abundance of Tigers, that are very fierce and ravenous; Lions that are very gentle; and Guanacos that are as big as Horses, with very long Necks, little Heads, and very short Tails, in the Stomachs of these Creatures the *Bezoar-stone* is found. There are Four Churches in this Town, namely the Parish-Church, that of the *Jesuits*, that of the *Recollect Friers*, and one more. Here the Inquisitor of the Province of *Tucuman* has his residence; he is a Secular Priest, and has Commissaries or Deputies under him, whom he places in all the other Towns of the Province.

After I had continued Three Days at *St. Jago*, I went from thence to *Salta*, which is 100 Leagues from it, and leaving *St. Miguel* of *Tucuman* on the left hand, which is a Town under the Jurisdiction

diction of *St. Jago*, I took the Road of *Esseco*, finding in my way some little Villages of *Spaniards* here and there, and very few Savages. The Country is flat, and consists partly of Fruitful Plains, and partly of Forrests full of Algarobe and Palm-trees; which bear Dates somewhat less than those in the East-Countries, as well as many other sorts of Trees and Plants, amongst others, those that yield Pitch, and those that produce Cocheneil and Cotton. There are divers small Lakes, about which there are great quantities of Salt produc'd, which is us'd by the People of that Country. I stay'd one day at *Esseco*, to prepare my self some Provisions to live upon. It's Situation is upon a very handsome broad River, which yet may be foarded on Horseback. This Town was formerly as big and as considerable as *Cordona*, but is now ruin'd, there being not above 30 Families left in it, for the rest deserted it, because of the great number of Tigers that infested 'em, devouring their Children, and sometimes Men when they could surprize 'em, besides an incredible number of Venemous Flies, that sting very smartly, with which the Country is fill'd for four or five Leagues about the
the

the Town; so that there's no going abroad without being mask'd. This Country is also sufficiently Fruitful in Wheat, Barley, Vines, and other Fruit-trees; and would abound in Cattle if the Tigers did not devour 'em.

From *Esseco* to *Salta* is 15 Leagues: And this space of Land, would be like that I have just now spoken of, but that it is Gravelly in some places. One may easily discern *Salta* about 2 Leagues before one comes at it; because it stands in the middle of a fine Plain, which is fertile in Corn, Grapes, and other sorts of Fruit, Cattle, and other necessities of Life: Encompass'd in some places with Hills, and some pretty high Mountains. The Town is upon the bank of a Little River, over which there is a Bridge: It may contain about 400 Houses, and 5 or 6 Churches and Convents, the Structure of which, is like that of those I have before describ'd. 'Tis not encompass'd with any Walls, Fortifications or Ditches; but the Wars the Inhabitants have had with their Neighbours, have train'd them in Martial Discipline, and render'd 'em more careful to have Arms in a readiness than formerly: They are about 500 Men, who

all bear Arms, besides Slaves, Moulatos, and Blacks, who are three times as many. 'Tis a place of great resort, because of the considerable Trade they have, in Corn, Meal, Cattle, Wine, Salted Meat, Tallow, and other Commodities where-with they Trade with the Inhabitants of *Peru*.

Twelve Leagues beyond it lies *Xuxui*, which is the last Town of *Tucuman* on the side of *Peru*. There are up and down on the Road a great many Cottages or Farms, and more than in any other place, tho' the Country is not so pleasant nor so fruitful, being almost nothing else but Hills and Mountains. This Town of *Xuxui* contains about 300 Houses: 'Tis not very full of People, because of the continual Wars the Inhabitants of it, as well as those of *Salta*, have with the Savages of the Valley of *Calchaqui*, who are continually harasing of 'em. The Cause that set these Wars on Foot is as follows; The Governor of *Tucuman*, *Don Alonso de Mercado*, and *de Villa Corta*, having receiv'd Information, that the House of the last *Incas* or Kings of *Peru*, which was call'd the White-house, was in this Valley, and that there was a great deal of Treasure there,

there, which the Natives kept as a mark of their Ancient Grandeur, gave advice of it to his Catholick Majesty, and begg'd leave to make a Conquest of it, and subject it to his Government, as it had far'd with so many other places which he obtain'd. To accomplish his design, he thought meet to employ *Don Pedro Bohoriers* a Moor, and Native of *Estramadura*, as being a Person who had been accustom'd to converse with Savage People, and was capable of carrying on Intreagues amongst 'em, and so more fit than another, to make this design succeed; but the business had a quite contrary Event. For this *Bohoriers*, when he was got among the Savages of this Valley, and had gain'd their Affections, instead of acquitting himself of his Commission, endeavor'd to establish himself in Power amongst 'em, in which he succeeded so well, that by his Craft and good address, he brought 'em to choose and acknowledge him for their King; after which he declar'd himself against this *Spanish* Governor, and began a War with him towards the end of 1638, and several times routed him and his Forces, which gave occasion to several of the *Indian* Natives, that were under the Dominion

minion of the *Spaniards*, to throw of their Yoke, and joyn with the People of this Valley, who by these additions have render'd themselves somewhat formidable. Hither also the Slaves of *Peru*, particularly those that serve in the Mines, fly, when they can find an opportunity to make their escape: And the safe retreat they find here, draws a great number of 'em to this place; infomuch that the *Spaniards* would not have half Men enough to work in the Mines, if they did not get Negros from *Congo*, *Angola*, and other places on the Coast of *Guinea*, by means of divers *Genoese* that go thither to fetch 'em, and sell 'em to them at a price concerted between 'em.

From *Xuxui* to *Potosi* they count a 100 Leagues, the way is very troublesome, and there is but this one Road to go from *Tucuman* to *Peru*. Two Leagues from *Xuxui* I began to advance to the Mountains, between which there's a little and very narrow Valley, that reaches as far as *Omagoaca*, which is 20 Leagues beyond, and along it there runs a small River, which one is oblig'd to pass and repass very often. Before you are got 4 Leagues in this Road, you meet with *Vulcanos*, or Burning Mountains,

tains, full of Sulphurous matter, which break out in Flames from time to time, and sometimes burst open and throw quantities of Earth into the Valley, which makes the way so dirty when a Rain comes soon after it, as it almost always happens, that sometimes you must be forc'd to stay Five or Six Months, or till the Summer comes to dry it to make it passable. These Vulcanos continue for 2 Leagues upon this Road, and in all this space, there are no Houses either of *Spaniards* or *Savages*, but beyond it all along as far as *Omagoaca*, there are a great many little Cottages, inhabited only by *Indians*, and depending on some Towns of theirs, which are govern'd by their Chiefs, whom they call *Couracas*, who have a *Cacique* over them, whose Orders they obey, and whose residence is at *Omagoaca*, which is a Town of 200 Houses, built of Earth, and standing in no good Order. The Land about it is none of the best, however they sow Wheat there, and a great quantity of Millet, which the *Indians* ordinarily use. As for Cattle, they have very few, and commonly eat Beef dry'd in the Sun, which is brought them by those that Trade with 'em; they have also Goats

and Sheep of their own Product.

The most of these Savages are Catholics, and live according to the Rules of the Roman Catholick Religion; they have a Church at *Omagoaca*, which is supplied with Priests, who go from time to time to celebrate Mass there: These Priests dwell at *Socchoa*, which is the Plantation of *Don Paulo d' Obaudo*, who is a Spaniard, but born in this Country, and is Lord Proprietor of it, which contains not only all the Valley of *Omagoaca*, but likewise a great space of Land beyond, and is a Country of about 60 or 80 Leagues in extent, where there are a great many *Vigognes* of whose Wool this Lord makes a very considerable Advantage. He takes these Creatures with a great deal of ease by means of his Subjects the *Indians*, who have no other trouble than that of making a great Inclosure with Nets about a Foot and a half high, to which they tie a great many Feathers that are blown to and fro by the Wind, after which the Savages hunt these Creatures, and drive 'em within the Nets, as they do Wild-Boars in *France* into the Toils; when this is done, some come on Horse-back within the compass of Ground in which they are inclos'd, and while

while the poor Beasts dare not go near the Nets for fear of the Feathers that play about 'em, they with certain Bowls fastened to Cords, knock down and kill as many of 'em as they please.

From *Omagoaca* to *Mayo*, they count it 30 Leagues, & there's nothing to be met with along this way, but a very few Plantations of Savages, because 'tis so very Cold here in the Winter, that 'tis hard to be endur'd.

The way from *Mayo* to *Toropalca* is through very pleasant Plains, there are Two hundred Houses in the Town, inhabited by Catholick Savages, only one *Portuguese* lives there with his Family.

Beyond *Toropalca*, is the Country of *Chichas* which is very Mountainous, and is stor'd with divers Mines of Gold and Silver, and Work-houses where they prepare the Metal. 'Tis 25 Leagues in extent as far as *Potosi*, where I arriv'd after a Journey of Sixty three Days.

*A Description of the City of Potosi,
and the Mines there.*

I Was no sooner alighted from my Horse, at a Merchants House to whom I had been recommended, but I was conducted by him to the President of the Provinces of *Los Charcas*, to whom the Order I carried from the King of *Spain* was directed, as the Principal Director of his Catholick Majesty's Affairs in this Province, in which *Potosi* is Situate, which is the place of his Ordinary Residence, altho' the *City de la Plata* is the Capital. After I had deliver'd the Order to him, I was brought to the Corregidor, to deliver that which belong'd to him, and afterwards to those other Officers for whom I brought Orders; they all receiv'd me very well, particularly the President, who presented me with a Chain of Gold for the good News I had brought him.

But before we go any farther 'tis convenient I should give some description of the City of *Potosi*, as I have done of others.

others. The *Spaniards* call it the Imperial City, but no body could ever tell me for what reason; 'tis Situate at the Foot of a Mountain, call'd *Arazasson*, and divided in the midst by a River, which comes from a Lake inclos'd with Walls, which lies about a quarter of a League above the City, and is a kind of reserver to hold the Water that is necessary for the Work-houses of that part of the City, which is on this side of the River, over against the Mountain, is rais'd upon a little Hill, and is the largest and most inhabited part; for on that which is on the side of the Mountain, there's scarce any thing but Engines and the Houses of those that Work in 'em. The City has neither Walls, Ditches, nor Forts for its defence, there are reckon'd to be 4000 Houses well built of good Stone, with several Floors, after the manner of the Buildings in *Spain*. The Churches are well made, and all richly adorn'd with Plate, Tapestry, and other Ornaments, and above all those of the Monks and Nunns, of whom there are several Convents of different Orders, which are very well furnish'd. This is not the least populous City of *Peru*, with *Spaniards*, *Mestices*,
Stran-

Strangers, and *Natives* (which last the *Spaniards* call *Indios*) with *Moulatos* and *Negroes*. They count there are between 3 and 4000 Natural *Spaniards* bearing Arms, who have the Reputation of being very stout Men and good Souldiers. The number of the *Mestices* is not much less, nor are they less expert at a Weapon, but the greatest part of 'em, are Idle, apt to quarrel and Treacherous, therefore they commonly wear Three or Four Buff-waist-coats one upon another, which are proof against the point of a Sword, to secure themselves from private stabs. The *Strangers* there are but few, there are some *Dutch*, *Irish*, and *Genoese*; and some *French*, most of whom are of *St. Malo*, *Provence* or *Bayonne*, and pass for People of *Navarre* and *Biscaye*. As for the *Indians* they are reckon'd to amount to near 10000 besides the *Moulatos* and the *Blacks*: but they are not permitted to wear either Swords or Fire-Arms, no not their *Couracas* and *Caciques*, tho' they may all aspire to any degree of Knight-hood, and to Benefices, to which they are often rais'd, for their laudable Actions, and good Services. They are also forbidden to wear the *Spanish* habit, but are

are oblig'd to cloath themselves in a different manner, in a close-coat without sleeves, which they wear next their Shirts, to which their Band and lac'd Cuffs are fasten'd, their Breeches are wide at bottom after the *French* fashion; their Legs and Feet naked. The *Blacks* and *Moulatos* being in the Service of the *Spaniards*, are habited after the *Spanish* Mode, and may bear Arms, and all the *Indian* Slaves after Ten Years service are set at liberty, and have the same privileges with the others. The Government of this City is very exact, by the Care which is taken by Twenty four Magistrates, who are constantly observing, that good orders be kept in it; besides the Corregidor and President of *Los Charcas*, who directs Officers after the manner of *Spain*. It is to be observ'd, that excepting these two Principal Officers, as well at *Potosi* as every where else in the *Indies*, all the People, whether Knights, Gentlemen, Officers or others, are concern'd in Commerce: of which some of them make so great an advantage, that in the City of *Potosi*, there are some reckon'd to be worth, Two, some Three, and some Four Millions of Crowns; and a great many worth Two,
Three,

Three, or Four hundred thousand Crowns. The common People to live much at their ease, but are all proud and haughty, and always go very fine, either in Cloth of Gold and Silver, or in Scarlet, or Silk trimmed with a great deal of Gold and Silver-Lace. The Furniture of their Houses is very Rich, for they are generally serv'd in Plate. The Wives both of Gentlemen and Citizens, are kept very close, to a degree beyond what they are in *Spain*; they never go abroad, unless it be to go to Mass, or to make some Visit, or to some publick Feast; and that but rarely. The Women here are generally addicted to excess in taking Coca: This is a Plant that comes from the side of *Cusco*, which when it is made up in Rows and dry'd they chew, as some do Tobacco; they are so heated, and sometimes absolutely fuddled by it, that they have no command of themselves at all: 'Tis likewise often us'd by the Men, and has the same effects upon them. They are otherwise very Temperate in eating and drinking, tho' they have before dwelt in places well stor'd with all sort of Provisions, as Beef, Mutton, Fowls, Venison, raw and preserv'd Fruits, Corn and Wine, which

which are brought hither from other parts, and some from a great distance, which makes these Commodities dear, so that the meaner sort of People; especially those that have very little before-hand, would find it hard enough to live there, if Money were not very plenty, and easie to be got by them that are willing to work.

The best and finest Silver in all the *Indies*, is that of the Mines of *Potosi*, the principal of which are found in the Mountain of *Aranzasse*, where besides the prodigious quantities of Silver that have been taken out of Veins, in which the Metall evidently appear'd, and which are now exhausted, there is almost as great quantities of it found in places where they had not digg'd before; nay from some of the Earth which they threw aside formerly when they open'd the Mines, and made Pits, and Cross-ways in the Mountains, they have taken Silver, and have found by this, that the Silver has been form'd since that time, which shews how proper the Quality of this Ground is for the production of that Metal: But indeed this Earth does not yield so much as the Mines that are found by Veins among the Rocks. There are besides these

these another sort of Veins of Earth which they call *Paillaco*, which are as hard as a Stone, and of the Colour of Clay, which were slighted heretofore, and yet as Experience has since taught, were not so contemptible as was suppos'd; since Silver is got out of 'em with so little Charge, that there is no inconsiderable profit found in the Work. Besides the Mines of this Mountain, there are a great many others about the Country at a greater distance, that are pretty good, amongst others those of *Lippes*, of *Carangas*, and of *Porco*; but those of *Ourores* that have been lately discover'd are better.

The King of *Spain* does not cause any of these Mines to be wrought on his own account, but leaves 'em to those Persons that make the Discovery of 'em, who remain Masters of 'em after the Corregidor has visited 'em, and declar'd 'em Proprietors, on the accusom'd Conditions and Privileges. The same Corregidor describes and marks out the superficies of the Ground, in which they are allow'd to open the Mine on the outside, which does not for all that, limit or restrain their work under-ground; every Man having liberty to follow the
Vein

Vein he has found, let the extent and depth of it reach never so far, tho' it should cross that which another has digged near it. All that the King reserves for himself, besides the Duties we shall hereafter speak of, is to give a general direction by his Officers, for all the work of the Mines, and to order the number of Savages to be employ'd in 'em; to prevent the disorders that would arise, if every Proprietor of the Mines should have liberty to set as many of 'em to work as he pleas'd; which would frequently give occasion to those that are most powerful and Rich, to ingross and have so great a Number of 'em, that few or none would remain for others to employ, to keep their work going forward: for this would be contrary to the Kings Interest, which is to make Provision that that there be a sufficient number of Slaves for all the Mines that are open'd. For this end he obliges all the *Couracas* or Chiefs of the Savages, to furnish every one a certain number, which they must always keep compleat, or else are forc'd to give twice as much Money as would have been paid in Wages to those that are wanting, if they had been present. Those that are destin'd for the Mines of

Potosi, don't amount to above Two thousand and two or three hundred, these are brought and put into a great Enclosure which is at the Foot of the Mountain, where the Corregidor makes a distribution of 'em to the Conductors of the Mines, according to the Number they want, and after Six days constant Work, the Conductor brings 'em back the Saturday following to the same place, where the Corregidor causes a review to be made of 'em, to make the owners of the Mines give 'em the Wages that are appointed 'em, and to see how many of 'em are dead, that the *Couracas* may be oblig'd to supply the number that is Wanting: for there's no Week passes but some of 'em die, either by divers accidents that Occur, as the tumbling down of great quantities of Earth, and falling of Stones, or by Sickness and other Casualties. They are sometimes very much incommoded by Winds that are shut up in the Mines; the coldness of which joyn'd to that of some parts of the Earth, chills 'em so excessively, that unless they chew'd *Coca*, which heats and fuddles 'em, it would be intolerable to 'em. Another great hardship which they suffer is, that in other places, the Sulphurous and
Mineral

Mineral Vapours are are so great, that it strangely drys 'em up, so that it hinders 'em from free respiration; and for this they have no other remedy, than the Drink which is made with the Herb of *Paraguay*, of which they prepare a great quantity to refresh and moisten 'em, when they come out of the Mines at the times appointed for eating or sleeping; this Drink serves 'em also for Physick to make 'em Vomit, and cast up whatever incommodes their Stomachs. Among these Savages they ordinarily choose the best Workmen to break up the Oar between the Rocks; this they do with Iron-barrs, which the *Spaniards* call *Palancas*, and other Instruments of Iron; others serve to carry what they digg in little Baskets to the entrance of the Mine; others to put it in Sacks, and load it upon a sort of great Sheep, which they call *Carneros de la Tierra*, they are taller than Affes, and commonly carry Two hundred Pound weight; these serve to carry it to the Work-houses which are in the Town along the River, which comes from the Lake I have spoken of before. In these Work-houses which are a Hundred and twenty in Number; the Oar is refined, of which take the follow-

ing account. They first beat it well upon Anvils with certain great Hammers, which a Mill continually keeps at work, when they are pretty well reduc'd to Powder, they pass it thro' a fine Sieve, and spread it upon the Ground about half a Foot thick in a square place that is very smooth, prepar'd for the purpose; then they cast a great deal of Water upon it, after which they with a Sieve spread upon it a certain quantity of Quick-silver, which is proportion'd by the Officers of the Mint, and also a Liquid substance of Iron, which is prepar'd by Two Millstones, one of which is fix'd, and the other is continually turning, between these they put an Old Anvil, or some other Massy piece of Iron, which is worn away and Consum'd with Water by the turning Millstone, so that 'tis reduc'd to a certain Liquid Matter. The Oar being thus prepar'd, they stir it about and mix it, as Men do when they make Mortar, for a Fortnight together, every day tempering it with Water; and after this they several times put it into a Tub, wherein there is a little Mill, which by its motion separates from it all the Earth with the Water, and casts 'em off together,

so

so that nothing but the Metallick Matter remains at the bottom, which is afterwards put into the Fire in Crucibles, to separate the Quick-silver from it, which is done by Evaporation, for as for the Iron substance, that does not Evaporate, but remains mix'd with the Silver, which is the reason that there is always in Eight Ounces (for example sake) Three quarters of an Ounce or thereabouts of false Alloy.

The Silver when thus refin'd is carried to the Mint, where they make an Essay of it whether it be of the right Alloy, after which it is melted into Barrs or Ingots, which are weigh'd, and the fifth part of 'em deducted, which belongs to the King, and are stamp'd with his mark; the rest appertain to the Merchant, who in like manner applies his mark to them; and takes 'em away from thence when he pleases in Barrs, or else converts 'em into Reals and other Money. This fifth part is the only profit the King has from the Mines, which yet are esteem'd to amount to several Millions; But besides this, he draws considerable Sums by the ordinary Impositions upon Goods, without reckoning what he raises upon Quick-silver, both that which

is taken out of the Mines of *Guancavelica*, which are Situated between *Lima* and *Cusco*; and that which is brought from *Spain*, with which Two Vessels are loaded every Year, because that which is taken out of these Mines is not sufficient for all the *Indies*.

They use divers ways of Carriage, to Transport all the Silver that is annually made about *Potosi* for *Spain*; first they Load it upon Mules, that carry it to *Arica*, which is a Port on the South-Sea, from whence they Transport it in small Vessels to the Fort of *Lima*, or *Los Reys*, which is a Fort upon the same Sea, Two Leagues from *Lima*; here they Embark it with all that comes from other parts of *Peru*, in Two great Gallions that belong to his Catholick Majesty, each of which carry 1000 Tuns, and are Arm'd each with 50 or 60 Pieces of Canon; these are commonly accompanied with a great many small Merchant Ships as Richly Loaded, which have no Guns but a few Petareroes to give Salutes; and take their Course towards *Panama*, taking care always to send a little Pinnace 8 or 10 Leagues before to make discoveries. They might make this way in a Fortnights time, having always

ways the help of the South-wind which reigns alone in this Sea ; yet they never make it less than a Months Voyage, because by this delay the Commander of the Gallions makes a great advantage in furnishing those with Cards that have a mind to play on Ship-board, during the Voyage, which amounts to a very considerable Sum, both because the Tribute he receives is Ten Patagons for every Pack of Cards, and because there is a prodigious quantity of 'em consum'd, they being continually at play ; and there being scarce any body aboard, but is concern'd for very considerable Sums. When the Gallions arrive at *Panama* on the Continent, they put their Lading ashoar, and wait to hear of those from *Spain*, who commonly about the same time, or a little after, arrive at *Portobelo*, which is 18 Leagues from the North-Sea ; in the mean time they carry thither part of the Gold, Silver, and other Commodities of this Fleet which are design'd for *Europe*, upon Mules by Land, and part by Water upon the River of *Chiagre*, in Boats made of an entire piece of Wood call'd *Piragouas*. A few days after they are unladen, and after the Gallions are likewise arriv'd from *Spain* ; a

very great Fair is held there, for a Fort-night together, in which they Sell and Barter all sorts of Goods necessary for each Country; which is perform'd with so much honesty, that the Sale is made only by the Inventories, without opening the Bales, without the least Fraud. The Fair being ended, they all retire to the places to which they respectively belong. The Gallions that are to return into *Spain*, go to *Havana*, in the Island of *Cuba*, where they wait for the Arrival of the Flota of *la Vera-Cruz* in *New Spain*; as soon as that has joyn'd 'em, they continue their Course together, passing thro' the Channel of *Bahama* along the Coast of *Florida*, they touch at the Island of *Bermudos*, where they commonly meet with Advice of the State of Affairs in *Europe*, and with orders to direct them how to avoid any disasters, and to perform their Voyage in safety. As for the Gallions of *Peru*, after they have taken in a new Cargo at *Panama*, they return to *Lima*, steering divers Courses, because of the Contrariety of the Wind, which keeps 'em Two or Three Months at Sea. Being there, they dispose of what they have for *Peru*: And the rest of the Goods is taken off by the Merchants

chants of *Chili*, who give a great many Commodities of their Country in exchange for 'em; as Goats-leather, which in the Language of the Country is call'd *Cordonan*, Cordage, Hemp, Pitch and Tar, Oyls, Olives, and Almonds, and above all a great quantity of Dust of Gold, which is taken out of the Rivers of *Copiapo*, *Coquinbo*, *Baldivia*, and others which fall into the South-Sea. And now we are speaking of the Commodities of *Chili*, some small matter must be said concerning this great Province or Kingdom. At the Mouths of those Rivers, of which I have just been speaking, there are good Ports, and Cities, each of which consist of about 4 or 500 Houses, and those sufficiently stock'd with People. The most considerable Cities upon the Sea-Coast, are *Baldivia*, *la Conception*, *Copiapo* and *Coquinbo*. *Baldivia* is Fortified, and has a Garrison in it, usually compos'd only of Banish'd Men, and Malefactors of the *Indies*; the Three others are Cities of Trade. Farther up in the Countrey is *St. Jago de Chili*, which is the Capital of all *Chili*, where there is likewise a strong Garrison, and some regular Troops, by reason of the continual War they have with the Sa-
vages

vages, call'd *Aoucans*. Beyond it in the Mountains, lies the little Province of *Chicuito*, of which the principal Places are *St. Juan de la Frontera*, and *Mendoca*, round about these Towns, there grows a great deal of Corn, and abundance of Vines, which furnish the Country of *Chili*, and the Province of *Tucuman* as far as *Buenos Ayres*.

Three Weeks after my Arrival at *Potosi*; there were great rejoycings made for the Birth of the Prince of *Spain*, which lasted for a Fortnight together, during which time all Work ceased, throughout the City, in the Mines, and in the Adjacent places, and all the People great and small, whether *Spaniards*, *Foreigners*, *Indians*, or *Blacks*, minded nothing else but to do something extraordinary for the Solemnizing of this Festival. It began with a Cavalcade, made by the Corregidor, the Twenty four Magistrates of the City, the other Officers, the Principal of the Nobility and Gentry, and the most eminent Merchants of the City; all richly Cloth'd. All the rest of the People, and particularly the Ladies being at the Windows, and casting down abundance of perfum'd Waters, and great quantities of
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dry Sweet-meats. The following days they had several Plays, some of which they call *Juegos de Toros*, others *Juegos de Cannas*, several sorts of Masquerades, Comedies, Balls, with Vocal and Instrumental Musick, and other Divertisements, which were carry'd on one day by the Gentlemen, another day by the Citizens; one while by the Gold-smiths, another while by the Miners; some by the People of divers Nations, others by the *Indians*, and all with great Magnificence, and a prodigious Expence. The Rejoycings of the *Indians* deserve a particular remark, for besides that they were richly cloth'd, and after a different manner, and that Comical enough; with their Bows and Arrows; they in one Night and Morning, in the Chief Publick place of the City, prepar'd a Garden in the form of a Labyrinth, the Plats of which were adorn'd with Fountains spouting out Waters, furnished with all sorts of Trees and Flowers, full of Birds, and all sorts of Wild-beasts, as Lions, Tygers and other kinds; in the midst of which they express'd their Joy a Thousand different ways, with extraordinary Ceremonies. The last day save one surpass'd all the rest, and that

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was a Race at the Ring, which was perform'd at the Charge of the City with very surprizing Machines. First there appear'd a Ship Tow'd along by Savages, of the bulk and burden of a 100 Tuns, with her Guns and Equipage of Men cloth'd in Curious Habit, her Anchors, Ropes, and Sails swelling with the Wind, which very luckily blew along the Street through which they drew her to the great publick place, where as soon as she arriv'd, she saluted the Company, by the discharge of all her Canon; and at the same time a *Spanish* Lord, representing an Emperor of the *East*, coming to Congratulate the Birth of the Prince, came out of the Vessel attended with Six Gentlemen, and a very fine Train of Servants that led their Horses, which they mounted, and so went to salute the President of *Los Charcas*, and while they were making their Compliment to him, their Horses kneel'd down, and kept in that Posture, having been taught this Trick before. They afterwards went to salute the Corregidor, and the Judges of the Field, from whom when they had receiv'd permission to run at the Ring against the Defendants, they acquitted themselves with

with great Gallantry, and receiv'd very fine prizes distributed by the hands of the Ladies. The Race at the Ring being finish'd, the Ship and a great many other small Barks that were brought thither advanc'd to attack a great Castle wherein *Cromwel* the Protector, who was then in War with the King of *Spain*, was feign'd to be shut up; and after a pretty long Combat of Fireworks; the fire took hold of the Ship, the small Barks, and the Castle and all was consum'd together. After this a great many pieces of Gold and Silver were distributed and thrown among the People in the Name of his Catholick Majesty: And there were some particular Persons that had the prodigality to throw away Two or Three Thousand Crowns a Man among the Mob. The Day following these Rejoycings were concluded by a Procession, made from the great Church to that of the Recollects, in which the Holy Sacrament was carry'd, attended with all the Clergy and Laity; and because the way from one of these Churches to the other had been unpav'd for the Celebration of the other Rejoycings, they repair'd it for this Procession with Barrs of Silver, with

with which all the way was entirely cover'd. The Altar where the Host was to be Lodg'd in the Church of the Recollects was so furnish'd with Figures, Vessels, and Plates of Gold and Silver, adorn'd with Pearles, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, that scarce ever could any thing be seen more Rich: For the Citizens brought thither all the rarest Jewels they had. The extraordinary Charge of this whole time of Rejoycing, was reckon'd to amount to above 500000 Crowns.

These Divertisements being ended, the rest of the time that I continued at *Potosi*, was employ'd in compleating the Sale of the Goods, the Inventories of which I had brought with me, and I oblig'd myself to cause these Goods to be deliver'd in a certain time at *Xuxui*, and to pay all the Charge of Carriage so far. I took most of my Payment in Silver, namely in Patagons, Plate, Barrs, and Pignas, which is Virgin-silver; and the rest in *Vigogne* Wool, and when I had quite finish'd the business for which I was sent to *Potosi*; I left the place to return to *Buenos Ayres* the same way I came. I loaded all my Bales upon Mules, which is the ordinary way of Carriage
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to pass the Mountains which divide *Peru* from *Tucuman*. But when I was arriv'd at *Xuxui*, I thought meet to make use of Waggon, which is much more Commodious, and thus I continu'd my Travels; and after a Journey of 4 Months happily arriv'd at the River of *Lucan*; which is 5 Leagues from *Buenos Ayres*; where I met with *Ignatio Maleo*, who was got thither before me; he came thither by the River in a little Boat, which we resolv'd to make use of, to convey most of the Silver I had brought with me, privately to our Ship; we thought meet to take this Course to avoid the risque we must have run of being Confiscated, if we had brought our Vessel by *Buenos Ayres*, because of the Prohibition of the Exportation of Gold and Silver, tho' this order is not always very regularly observ'd, the Governour sometimes, suffering it to be carried out privately, Conniving at it, for some present, or else not being very strict in taking notice of it.

I must not omit here to tell the reason why the *Spaniards* will not suffer the Silver of *Peru*, and of other Neighbouring Provinces to be Transported by the River of *la Plata*, nor all sorts of Vessels to go
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and Trade there without Permission: It is from this Consideration, that if they should give way to a free Trade on that side, where the Country is good and Plentiful, the Earth Fruitful, The Air wholesome, and Carriage Commodious; the Merchants that Trade in *Peru*, *Chili*, and *Tucuman*, would soon quit the way of the Gallions, and the Ordinary Passages through the North and South-Seas, and through the Continent, which is difficult and Incommodious; and would take the way of *Buenos Ayres*: And this would infallibly cause most of the Cities of the Continent to be deserted, where the Air is bad, and the Necessaries and Accommodations of Life are not to be had in such plenty.

When we had secur'd our Silver by the precaution we had us'd, I came to *Buenos Ayres* with the rest of our Goods; where I was no sooner Arriv'd, but our return to *Spain* was resolv'd on. But least any thing should be found on board us to give occasion for any Seizure, when the Kings Officers should make their usual Visit on our Vessel, before it went out of the Port; we thought convenient at first to Embark only those Commodities that

that took up the most room, as *Vigogne* Wool, Leather of several sorts, amongst others 16000 Bulls-hides, with a great many other Bales and Chests belonging to the Passengers that were to return with us, and about 30000 Crowns in Silver, which is the largest Sum that is permitted to be carried away, to supply all necessary charges that may occur in the Voyage, and to pay off the Ship. But after this Visit was made, we made an end of Embarking the Silver we had hidden, which with the rest of the Lading might amount to about Three Millions of Livers.

We parted from *Buenos Ayres* in the Month of *May* 1659, in company of a *Dutch* Vessel, Commanded by *Isaac de Brac*, which was also richly Laden; he engag'd us to steer our Course with him, because his Ship leak'd; and this fault increasing in the sequel of the Voyage, we were oblig'd to put in at the Island of *Fernande de Lorona*, within 3 Degrees and a half of the Line on the South-side. It prov'd well for us, as well as for the *Dutch*, that we stop'd here. For having a mind for fear of the worst to take in a new Provision of Fresh-Water here, we perceiv'd the greatest part of that we had taken in at *Buenos Ayres* was run out, and of a Hundred Barrels, which we thought we had remaining of our Store; we had but

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Thirty left. Therefore tho' the Water we found there had a very flat Taste, and had this ill quality, that it presently cast them that drank of it into a Looseness, we were however necessitated to fill our Barrels with it. And an Accident unhappy enough befell those of our Men that went to fetch it from the Rock out of which it sprang, for having stripp'd themselves almost naked, to work the more commodiously, the heat of the Sun scorch'd 'em so vehemently, that it made their Bodies all over red, and afterwards those parts upon which the Sun darted its Rays with the greatest violence, were full of Buboës and Pustules, which were very troublesome, and made 'em very uneasy for a Fortnights Time.

I went ashore to see this Island, which is about a League and an half in compass, and uninhabited. One of our Pilots told me that the *Dutch* possess'd it, while they held *Fermanbues* in *Brasil*, and that they had a small Fort there, some small remains of which were still left, that they sow'd Millet and Beans there, of which they had a tolerable Crop, and that they bred up a great many Fowls, Goats and Hogs. We saw a great number of Birds, of which some were good to eat; we continu'd there Four days, but when we saw the *Dutch* could not be so soon in a condition to continue

tinue their Voyage, being oblig'd to put their Cargo ashore, and to lay their Vessel upon one side to refit; we set sail, and after a Voyage sufficiently troublesome by the Storms we suffer'd, which sometimes drove us towards the Coasts of *Florida*, and sometimes upon others, we at last discover'd the Coasts of *Spain*. Instead of going to *Cadiz*, being under apprehensions of meeting the *English* who were still at War with the *Spaniards*; we thought convenient to make to *St. Andero*, where we happily arriv'd about the middle of *August*. We were immediatly inform'd that the *Spanish* Gallions came to Moor at the same Port in their return from *Mexico*, for the same reason that brought us thither, and that they set Sail but Two days before our Arrival. And because the Officers of the King of *Spain*, that had been sent to 'em were still there, we thought best to treat with them, as well to save the Fine we had incurr'd, for not returning to the place from whence we were sent out, as that we might not be troubled with a visit from them. And for 4000 *Patagons*, which we presented 'em, we were excus'd and exempted from any search. We therefore put our Silver and other Commodities ashore there, part of which was afterwards sent to *Bilboa*, and part to *St. Sebastian*, where in a little time they were sold

and distributed to several Merchants, who Transported 'em to divers places to put 'em off. When we had finished the Sale of all our Commodities, there was an exact account stated among those that were concern'd in the Ship, both of their Charge and Profit of this Voyage ; about the detail of which I shall not trouble my head. I shall only say, to give a short account of it in Gross, that the Charge consisted first in 290000 Crowns employ'd in buying the Goods with which our Vessel was Loaded at *Cadiz*, and in paying the Dues of Exportation from *Spain*. 74000 *Livers* for the Freight of the Vessel for 19 Months, at the rate of 3200 *Livers* per Month, 43000 *Livers* more for the pay of 76 Seamen great and small for the time, at the rate of 10 Crowns per Month one with another. 30000 Crowns spent in Victualling the Ship for that time, as well for the Ships Crew as for the Passengers, there being a very good Provision made, because in those long Voyages beyond the Line the Sailers must have good Sustenance, and the Passengers must have a great many Sweet-meats, good Liquors, and other Costly things. More 2000 Crowns for the Dues of Entry at *Buenos Ayres*, and in Presents to the Officers of the Place ; and 1000 Crowns in Custom at our going from thence ; more in Expences, Imposts and Charges

Charges in carrying our Goods from *Buenos Ayres* to *Potosi*, and from *Potosi* to *Buenos Ayres*, at the rate of 20 Crowns for a Quintal or 100 weight; more 4000 Crowns to procure an Exemption from being search'd and visited at our return to *Spain*. And in fine some other Expences, as well in Customs of Entry, when we Landed our Goods in *Spain*, as in some other things not fore-seen, which did not amount to any great Sums. These were almost all the Principal Articles of the Charge, which being deducted and paid, the Profit was found to amount to 250 per Cent. Comprehending that which was got by the Hides, which came to 15 *Livers* a piece, that being the Ordinary Price, tho' they cost but a Crown at the first hand; and likewise what was got by the Passengers, of whom we had above 50 on board us, as well in going as coming, which was not inconsiderable; for one Man who had nothing but his Chest paid 800 Crowns, and the rest paid proportionably for their Passage and Diet.

We were told at *St. Andero*, that the *Dutch* Vessels which we had seen at *Buenos Ayres* were safely arriv'd at *Amsterdam*, but that the *Spanish* Embassador being inform'd that they came from the *River de la Plata*, and had brought thence a prodigious Quantity of Silver and other Commodities, as well

on the account of some *Dutch* Merchants, as for several *Spaniards*, who had taken the opportunity of the return of these Vessels to come back into *Europe*, and had remitted their Money from *Amsterdam* to *Cadiz* and *Sevil* by Bills of Exchange, besides the *Dutch* Goods which they sent thither, had given advice of it to the Council for the *Indies* at *Madrid*, who judged this Money and these Effects liable to Confiscation, because all *Spaniards* are Prohibited from Trading upon Forreign Vessels, and from Transporting Silver to any other place besides *Spain*; and accordingly had seiz'd and confiscated the greatest part of 'em, the rest being saved by the precautions some of the Merchants took, who were not so much in haste as the others. The same Embassador having remonstrated at the same time, what would be the Consequence of Tolerating Strangers to continue to trade in the River of *Plata*, without putting any restraint upon 'em, the Council had so much regard to his advice, as to Equip a Vessel with all speed at *St. Sebastian*, which they Loaded with Arms and Men, to send to *Buenos Ayres* with very strict orders, as well to seize the Person of the Governor for having suffer'd these *Dutch* Vessels to come and Trade in the Country, as to take an exact account of the Acquaintance and Intelligence the

Dutch

Dutch had gotten there, as also to reestablish things so well there, in fortifying the Garrisons, and in Arming them better than they had yet been in time past, that for the Future they might be in a condition to resist Forreigners, and to hinder their Descent and Communication in the Country. Soon after our Arrival, *Ignatio Maleo* the Captain of our Ship, receiv'd an Order from the Court of *Spain* to come to *Madrid*, to inform the Council for the *Indies* of the Condition in which he found and left things at *Buenos Ayres*: He was desirous that I would accompany him thither, which I did. As soon as we arriv'd at *Madrid*, he gave in the Memoires, not only of all he had observ'd in the River of *Plata*, but also of the means that might be us'd to hinder Strangers from having the least thoughts of Trading there, and that first by keeping Two good Men of War at the Mouth of the River, to dispute and hinder the Passage of such Merchant Ships as should attempt to go up to *Buenos Ayres*; in the second place by sending every Year Two Ships Loaded with all things the People of those parts have occasion for. That being this way sufficiently supply'd, they might have no thoughts of favouring the descent and entrance of Strangers, when they should come thither. He moreover made a propos-

sal of changing the usual Way of carrying Goods, which are sent to *Peru*, and brought them by the Way of the Gallions; that it might be settled on the River of *Plata*, from whence he assur'd 'em, the Carriage of 'em by Land to *Peru*, would be more conveniently perform'd, and at a cheaper Rate, as well as with less Risque, than any other Way. But of all these Proposals the Council of *Spain* relish'd only that of sending to *Buenos-Ayres* Two Vessels laden with Commodities proper for the Country. And *Maleo* having obtain'd a Grant, and a Commission for this Purpose, upon the Assurance of it, we return'd to *Guipuscoa*, to make Preparation for this Voyage, and to set our Affairs in order; which we so well dispatch'd, that in a little time, we had a Vessel ready to set sail, which *Maleo* order'd to be bought at *Amsterdam*, and to be brought to the Port from whence we were to go, being partly laden with *Dutch*, and with other Commodities, taken up at *Bayonne*, *St. Sebastian*, and *Bilboa*, bought in gross at a Venture, in which Affair I was employ'd, having undertaken it by *Maleo's* Commission.

During these Preparations, and while we waited for the Dispatch of the Grant, that had been promis'd him by the Council of *Spain*, it happen'd that the Baron of *Va-*
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Vateville being in haste to go into *England*,
 in Quality of Ambassador from his Catho-
 lick Majesty; and having Orders to make
 use of the first Ship that was ready to Sail,
 took *Maleo's* Vessel; which, yet serv'd on-
 ly to carry his Baggage, the King of Great
Britain having sent him a Frigat at the same
 time, in which he cross'd the Sea. During
 the Stay, which *Maleo* was oblig'd to make
 in *England*, he made new Provision for his
 Voyage to the *Indies*; and seeing his Grant
 was not yet sent him, he thought it expe-
 dient to take a Commission, from the Ba-
 ron of *Vateville*, as Captain-General of the
 Province of *Guipuscoa*, in my Name, and
 that of *Pascoal Hiriarte*, commanding his
 Ship to go in pursuit of the *Portuguese*, on
 the Coast of *Brezil*; that this might serve
 us for a Pretext, to go into the River of
Plata. Being fortified with this Order,
 we embark'd, and having stopp'd at *Havre*
de Grace to set N--- ashoar, who thought
 good to return to *Madrid*, to sollicite a
 Commission also from the Council of *Spain*,
 for the Two Vessels, with which we agreed,
 that they should come and joyn us at *Bue-*
nos-Ayres; we continued our Course, and
 after many cross Winds, we arriv'd in the
 River of *Plata*: As we enter'd into it, we
 met Two *Dutch* Vessels that came from *Bue-*
nos Ayres; the Captains of which inform'd

us, that one of 'em could by no means obtain leave to Trade there; but that the other Arriving there before him, in a conjuncture when the Government was oblig'd to send a very important Message in all haste to his Catholick Majesty, relating to his Service, was so happy, by the promise he made of taking the Courier, who was order'd for *Spain* on board him, as to find means of disposing of all his Goods, and of bringing away a very Rich Cargo, in which he spake the very Truth; for he had the prudence before he came to the Port, to take out his richest Goods, and leave 'em in an Island below, and only reserv'd those of the greatest bulk to be expos'd to the View of the Officers, of which he had made a false Envois at the price of the Country, separate from the general one, and had made the Value of his Cargo to amount to 270000 Crowns. He agreed with the Governor to leave these Goods with him, provided he would give him for 'em 22000 Hides at a Crown apiece, 12000 pound of *Vigogne* Wool at 4 *Livers* 10 *Sous* per Pound, and 30000 Crowns in Silver to pay the Charges of Equipping his Ship; which was perform'd accordingly. But under the pretence of his Bargain, and while the Leather was Loading in the Vessel, the Captain under-hand sold his Richest Commodities,

dities, and for the Value of 'em which amounted to 100000 Crowns, he got at least 400000. Thus the Captain of the Ship and the Governor both made a great Advantage; but this Governor whose Name is *Don Alonza de Mercado and de Villacorta*, being a very disinterested Man, and not at all greedy of Money, declar'd that the Profit of this business was for the King his Master, and gave him advice of it by this Courier.

Being separated from these Vessels, we came to an Anchor before *Buenos Ayres*; but for all the Instances and Offers we could make one time after another to this Governor, we could never obtain his Permission to put our Goods ashore, and to expose 'em to Sale to the People of the Place; because we had no Licence for it from *Spain*. He only consented to let us go into the City from time to time to procure Victuals for our Men, and such other Necessaries as we wanted. He treated us with this Rigour for Eleven Months, after which there happen'd an Occasion which oblig'd him to use us better, and to enter into a sort of an Accommodation with us. There was another *Spanish* Ship in the Port, the same that a Year before had brought Troops and Arms from *Spain*, to reinforce the Garisons of *Buenos Ayres*, and of *Chili*, of which I
have

have spoken above; which contin'd here all this time upon her own private business, but the Captain that Commanded her could not manage his Affairs with so much secrecy, but it came to the Governor's Ear, that he design'd in prejudice of the Prohibition that was made, to carry away a great quantity of Silver, and indeed he seiz'd on a Sum of 113000 Crowns that was just ready to be carry'd of, of which the Captain could have no restitution made; and fearing a greater disapointment, namely that he should be seiz'd, he set Sail to return into *Spain*, without waiting for any Letters for his Catholick Majesty, with which the Governour would have intrusted him, together with the Information he had receiv'd of the Intelligence the *Dutch* had gotten in the Country, which he had a mind to send into *Spain* with all speed, as well as some Persons whom he had seiz'd, that were guilty of holding this Correspondence with the *Dutch*, among whom there was a Captain, nam'd *Alberto Janson*, a *Dutch*-man. The flight of this *Spanisb* Vessel therefore oblig'd the Governor to alter his carriage toward us, and to facilitate the Return of our Vessel, which he thought good to make use of, for want of another to carry his Letters and Prisoners into *Spain*; upon condition we would take upon us
this

this Charge, he suffer'd us after a tacite manner to do our business, and to carry off 4000 Hides; but we having great Acquaintance with the Merchants of the Place, manag'd our Affairs so well, that under the Umbrage of this permission, we sold all our Goods, and brought away a Rich Cargo, in Silver, Hides, and other Commodities, after which without loosing any time we took our Course for *Spain*.

At our Arrival in the River of *Corunna* in *Gallicia*, we receiv'd Advice by the Letters which N— sent us to the Ports upon all the Coasts, that there was an Order from the King of *Spain* to seize us at our return, because we had been at *Buenos Ayres* without leave. Upon this we resolv'd (after we had sent the Letters and Prisoners, that were committed to our Charge to the Governor of *Corunna* by the hand of the Sergeant Major of *Buenos Ayres*, who came about the Affairs of that Country in our Vessel) to pass out of that River, and to go 6 Leagnes from thence into the Road of *Barias*, where I found a small Vessel, in which I loaded the greatest part of what I had on my own account, and that of my Friends. The Governor of *Corunna* receiving advice of it, dispatch'd a Hoy after me to stop me, but I us'd that precaution and diligence, that this Hoy could never

ver come up with me, so that I happily arriv'd in *France* at the Port of *Socca*, where I by this means sav'd the fruit of my Labours and long Voyage. The great Ship which I left in the Road of *Barias* had not so favourable a Lot, and one may say, was ship-wrack'd at the very Port; for having left the Road of *Barias*, to get speedily to that of *Santonge*, to secure all the Goods she had on board, except 4000 Hides, of which her Bill of Lading gave an account, and having begun to put 600 Hides into a *Dutch* Vessel that she met there, the bad Weather constrain'd her to put in at the Port from whence she first went out, where she was Confiscated with all her Cargo for the use of the King of *Spain*, under the pretence before spoken of, that she had not the Permission of his Catholick Majesty for her Voyage.

While these things were transacting, the Sergeant Major of *Buenos Ayres* Arriv'd at *Madrid*, and the King of *Spain* having Caused the Informations he brought to be examin'd, which principally insisted upon the necessity there was of sending new Recruits of Men and Ammunition, to augment the Carisons of *Buenos Ayres*, and of *Chili*, the better to secure the Country against the Enterprizes of Strangers, and also from the attempt of the Savages of *Chili*,

immediately orderd Three Vessels to be Equipp'd for this purpose, the Command of which was given to N—. There was good store of Ammunition Embark'd in 'em, but for Recruits of Souldiers, there were but 300 Men, of whom the greatest part were sent into *Chili*. In the same Vessel there were Lawyers sent, to form a Court of Common-Justice, which they call an Audience, at *Buenos Ayres*, where there were only some Officers for the Decisions of Petty Matters before, the Greater Causes being remitted to the Audience that is Established at *Chaquisaca*, otherwise call'd *la Plata*, in the Province of *Los Charcas*, 500 Leagues from *Buenos Ayres*.

When N— return'd from this Voyage, he came to *Oyarson* in the Province of *Guipuscoa* his Native Country, from whence he sent me an account of himself, and we agreed to have a secret Enterview upon the Frontiers; accordingly we met, and gave one another an account of the Affairs in which we were both concern'd; and by this account we found there were about 60000 Livres due from him to me, which he has not yet paid.

F I N I S.