

JOURNAL
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LATE EMBASSY TO CHINA;
COMPRISING
A CORRECT NARRATIVE OF THE PUBLIC TRANSACTIONS OF THE
EMBASSY,
OF THE VOYAGE TO AND FROM CHINA,
AND OF
THE JOURNEY FROM THE MOUTH OF THE PEI-HO TO THE
RETURN TO CANTON.
INTERSPERSED WITH
OBSERVATIONS
UPON THE FACE OF THE COUNTRY, THE POLITY, MORAL CHARACTER, AND
MANNERS OF THE CHINESE NATION.

THE WHOLE
Illustrated by Maps and Drawings.

BY HENRY ELLIS,
THIRD COMMISSIONER OF THE EMBASSY.

It is a strange thing, that in sea voyages, where there is nothing to be seen but sky and sea, men should make diaries; but in land travel, wherein so much is to be observed, for the most part they omit it; as if chance were fitter to be registered than observation: let diaries therefore be brought in use.

LORD BACON.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

AN Embassy to China is so rare an event in the history of Europe, that a correct narrative of the occurrences attending it possesses a degree of interest, almost independent of the mode in which the narrative itself may be executed. This consideration has induced the author to give his Journal to the public, and has inspired, he trusts, a well-founded confidence in their indulgence to deficiencies of style and arrangement.

In his statement of public proceedings, the author has received the sanction of those, whose situations in the Embassy best qualified them to form a judgment; and he has applied his utmost powers of personal observation, to give an accurate description of the country and of its inhabitants.

If such be the impression received by the public, the purposes of the author are fully effected; and he has only

to regret, that the absence of assistance, perhaps arising from the want of solicitation on his part, should have rendered the work less complete than it might otherwise have been.

For the Drawings and Geographical Illustrations, the author is chiefly indebted to his friend the Honourable Charles Abbot; Mr. Mayne, master of the *Alceste*, and Mr. Brownrigg, midshipman of the same ship, have also lent their assistance.

Had the author's intention been known, or indeed had it existed at Canton, the value of the work would probably have been increased, by some efforts of Mr. Havell's pencil; these will now, however, be reserved for a separate publication.

An Appendix of Official Papers, chiefly translations from the Chinese, and an Itinerary corresponding with the text, are added to the work.

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CHAPTER I.

EIGHTH of February, 1816.—We embarked on board his Majesty's ship *Alceste*, Captain Murray Maxwell; the greater number, I believe, with less of expectation for the future, than of regret at leaving England. The voyage must in fact occupy so many months, that the most sanguine cannot yet dwell upon the scene awaiting them at its termination with any degree of interest; and those who have perused the accounts of the former embassy, commenced too as it was under better prospects, can scarcely anticipate either public success or private gratification from any events likely to occur during our progress through China.

We sailed from Spithead in company with his Majesty's brig *Lyra*, Captain Basil Hall, and the Honourable Company's ship *General Hewitt*, Captain Walter Campbell, taken up by the Court of Directors for the conveyance of the bulkier articles of the stores and presents.

On the 18th of February we reached Funchal roads, where we found his Majesty's ship *Phaeton*, proceeding to St. Helena

with Sir Hudson Lowe, and his Majesty's ship *Niger*, bound to America with the Right Honourable C. Bagot, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States. Both these ships had experienced very bad weather, which we had fortunately escaped by being delayed a few days at Portsmouth. We left the roads the same evening, and proceeded in company with the *Lyra* and *Hewitt* to lat. $20^{\circ}.04'$ south and lon. $31^{\circ}.44'$ west, where we separated, they continuing their voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, while we directed our course to the Brazils, always an object of attraction, but more particularly so at the present moment, when the residence of the Prince Regent of Portugal at Rio Janeiro, and the state of the Spanish provinces, give to South America a high degree of political interest.

The Ambassador and Captain Maxwell had the less hesitation in thus diverging from the regular course, as the superiority in sailing of the *Alceste* over the other ships rendered it nearly certain that no prolongation of the voyage generally would thereby be produced.

21st March, 1816.—Anchored in the harbour of Rio Janeiro. The morning found us nearly in the centre of an amphitheatre of mountains, at the distance of seven miles. An opening between two extremes of land marked the entrance of the harbour; on the right is the fort of Santa Cruz, on the left that of Saint Lucie. The ranges presented in most places conical summits, and although one has especially obtained the appellation of Sugar Loaf, it is rather from its superior precipitous height, than from being singular in its shape. At this distance the beauty of the scenery is prin-

cipally derived from the extent and impressive variety of the forms assumed by the different ranges. The entrance to the harbour seemed about three quarters of a mile in breadth; and ranges of mountains, whose relative distances were marked by the position of the clouds resting upon their summits, formed the back ground. On approaching nearer to the entrance the scene became indescribably sublime and beautiful; the mountains that had formed the amphitheatre on a nearer view divided themselves into islands and separate headlands; several were thickly, though perhaps not loftily, wooded. Fortifications, detached houses, villages, and convents, occupied different positions; the eye wandered in rapturous observation over an endless variety of picturesque combinations, presenting a totality of wondrous scenery, detached parts of which were within the reach of the painter, but the general effect must equally defy pictorial and verbal description. In variety of expression the scene somewhat resembled the harbour of Constantinople, but the features of nature are here on a grander scale.

The death of the Queen of Portugal, which occurred yesterday, has communicated a character of noisy and luminous melancholy to the harbour and environs of the town. Guns are fired every five minutes from the ships and batteries, and the convents and churches are illuminated. Her majesty had an attack of illness six weeks since, from which period she gradually sunk under the infirmities of age. The king was much attached to her, and notwithstanding her unfortunate derangement, never omitted the daily domestic demonstrations of respect and regard. Her insanity was not

uninterrupted, and it is said that her remarks during her lucid intervals displayed ability, and probably produced the greater effect from the peculiar circumstances under which they were made.

No decisive line has been adopted by this court respecting the Spanish revolted provinces. Neutrality armed, and equal to eventual hostility, would seem the present intention. Artiguez, formerly a smuggler, afterwards employed to protect the revenue, at present master of Monte Video and twenty other towns, appears one of the most prominent men amongst the Spanish patriots. Originally possessed of property and personal influence, he seems by his spirit of enterprise to have acquired and maintained considerable advantages over his competitors by a permanency of system in his administration, a want of which has been the great cause of weakness at Buenos Ayres. The inhabitants of the latter place are represented as well inclined to England, whose protection and rule they would gladly accept; they are only united with Artiguez in a determination to resist Old Spain.

We landed on the 24th of March, and were most hospitably received by Mr. Chamberlain, the British consul and chargé d'affaires. He immediately commenced to perform his promise of shewing us the most beautiful parts of the scenery in the vicinity of St. Sebastian, and we rode with him to Bottofogo beach, the favourite drive of the princesses and ladies of Rio. An arm of the sea is here so completely inclosed by headlands, that it has the appearance and name of a lake. We rode along a lane, not unlike parts of England, with this difference, that the hedges were

formed by choice shrubs; the brilliancy of the verdure, even at this unfavourable season, particularly attracted our notice. Mr. Chamberlain's house is in the suburb or village of Cateti, deriving its name from the small stream the Cateti, crossed by a bridge of a single arch near the village.

On the 25th we visited the Russian consul, Mr. Langsdorf*, who resides during the hot season in a cottage near the summit of the Corcovado hill, vulgarly called Lord Hood's Nose. His object in selecting this situation is, both to avoid the heat and to pursue his researches in natural history. Uniting science to enthusiasm, he never loses an opportunity of adding to his collection, and in the pursuit of his favourite studies he defies every species of fatigue and inconvenience. The whole of the road, from the commencement of the ascent to the summit, presented a succession of beautiful scenery. An immense ravine, richly and imperiously wooded, occupied the bottom, and the ascent rose in undiminished verdure and fertility to all the sublimity of mountain magnificence. The total failure of the rains this season has taken much from the brilliancy of the verdure, and the variety of the flowers, with which the earth and trees are usually covered; enough, however, still remained to saturate the unaccustomed eye. The *rexia*, *mimosa*, *acacia*, and fern, grow to the size of large trees; and the shrubs, which in England are the reward of labour and artificial aid, here swarm in all the wild profusion of bounteous nature. The air, earth, and water, are in this country ever teeming with

* Mr. Langsdorf is well known in the literary world as one of the companions of Krusenstern.