

The circumstance of the stream of fresh water, which seemed so providentially to extend into the sea, and afforded so much relief, is found to exist in many parts of the world, and has been lately turned to advantage by our Toulon fleet, which was enabled to water at the mouth of the Rhone, almost without losing sight of the port they were blockading.

Off the Mississippi, ships can water even out of sight of land ; and the same is stated to be the case with the Oronoco, in South America. This will most probably be found in all narrow-mouthed rivers, which burst suddenly on the sea ; and from the fresh being specifically lighter than the salt water, it naturally floats on the surface of the heavier body, and remains unmixed as long as the current retains its force.

The chief discomfort of this boat-voyage proceeded from being so crowded, and being obliged to sit so long in a particular posture, and the great distress arising from thirst. It was very difficult indeed to prevent the people from drinking salt water ; one man became delirious, and it was

attributed to this cause. It most probably, however, proceeded from the extreme irritation occasioned by thirst; for salt water, although an article of *Materia Medica* in very extensive use, has never been known to take the direction of the head.

About the 21st March the ship Charlotte returned to Batavia, which had sailed in company with the Ternate, having on board Messrs. Mayne, Blair, and Marrige. After beating against wind and current, from the 24th February to the 16th March, without being able to fetch farther than the south-east end of Banca, the current constantly sweeping them to leeward the moment they opened the Straits, Mr. Mayne, finding nothing was to be done in the ship, resolved to shove off in the barge, accompanied by the above gentlemen, and Mr. Thomson the supercargo, with two casks of water and one of beef for us, in the event of being still on the island. They tugged at the oars until the next day, when, arriving in sight of the place we had occupied, they found a large flotilla of the pi-

rates at anchor there, three of whom immediately gave chase to our boat. There was no time to be lost; the barge made sail; but, in addition to their sails, the Malays pulled furiously, and were gaining fast. The beef and water were now thrown overboard, to lighten the barge; and, knowing whom they had to deal with, they prepared, being tolerably armed, to sell themselves as dear as possible. Fortunately at this moment a strong squall occurred, which compelled the Malays to lower their sails, whilst the barge, carrying through all, got a-head and escaped, the pirates hauling their wind again towards the island.

These proas were probably of the more distant islands, who, having only lately heard of the wreck, had arrived a day after the fair, and were hungry, and annoyed at finding no prey.

Nothing could exceed the deplorable state of Java at the period of its conquest by the British forces in 1811. The natives had at all times been enslaved and oppressed by the Dutch colonists; and, from the strict blockade of our cruizers, the produce of

the soil which they were unable to export was rotting in their warehouses, and reducing the latter to a state of bankruptcy.

The system of government immediately introduced by Lord Minto, under the able superintendence of Mr. Raffles, corresponding with that existing in British (and what is here termed western) India, very much altered the state of affairs; but it more especially ameliorated the condition of the native Javanese. It had been usual to compel the people to labour at the public works, whenever occasion required, without any, or at least for a very inadequate, remuneration. They were also obliged to deliver in a certain quantity of produce, often exceeding what they were able to afford; whilst they were tyrannically restricted to the cultivation of those articles only which best answered the purposes of the Dutch monopolists. By the new order of things these forced services were immediately abolished. The people were paid a reasonable price for their voluntary labour; and, instead of arbitrary and compulsory deliveries, encouragement was given to grow

what were considered the most valuable productions of the island, and the Javanese were now stimulated to exertion by having an interest in the fruits of their industry. The revenue was now raised (except in one or two immaterial instances, which could not at once be conveniently altered) by a moderate land-tax on the whole. The Rajahs or Regents of the different districts were allowed (and indeed preferred) a fixed salary to abandon their claims to the former harsh method of raising their incomes, whilst they were still intrusted under proper surveillance with the administration of the laws, which were also new-modelled and rendered more equitable, torture being abolished, and the instruments burnt in the public square. The Chinese farmers of revenue, employed under the Dutch, who possessed peculiar ingenuity in *squeezing* the natives, were either removed, or their conduct narrowly inspected by the British residents *. In Java there is no interrup-

* Sir T. Raffles, in his elaborate work on Java, states, " that whenever the Chinese formed extensive settlements

tion to the course of vegetation. The spring is eternal; and it is quite usual on the same day to see them sowing in one field, the second in half blossom, and reaping in the third. But with all these advantages of soil and climate the people had been driven to relinquish their native villages, and even to destroy the trees which the cruel impolicy of the whites compelled them to cultivate equally against their interest and their inclination.

In the first settlement of colonies, it is notorious that enormities were committed by *all* Europeans on the aborigines of the country; but, without flattering our *amour propre national*, this unconciliatory and overbearing system seems to have been far less practised by us than by other nations, if

“ in Java, the native inhabitants had no alternative but
 “ that of abandoning the district, or of becoming slaves
 “ of the soil. Their monopolizing spirit was often
 “ even pernicious to the produce, as may be seen
 “ even at this day in the immediate vicinity of Batavia,
 “ where all the public markets are farmed by them, and
 “ the degeneracy and poverty of the lower classes are
 “ proverbial.”

we may judge from the comparative personal security with which a Briton roams every where at large. Previous to our possession of Java, (when travelling became even more safe than in England,) no Dutchman ever ventured to undertake a journey among the natives without a guard. The same is the case with the Portuguese and the original Brazilians, as well as the Spaniards at Manilla, and throughout the whole island of Luconia.

With the Javanese harsh and rigorous measures seem, and indeed have been clearly proved to be, as unnecessary as they are unjustifiable, for few people bear a more mild, docile, or inoffensive character. They are a distinct race from the Malays of the coasts, not only speaking a different language, but are anxious not to be confounded with them. Lord Minto, who was personally at Java at the period of its falling into our possession, made the following observations on the existing state of affairs, and the alterations he judged necessary :—

“ Contingents of rice, and, indeed, of

“ other productions, have been hitherto
“ required of the cultivators, by govern-
“ ment, at an arbitrary rate ; this, also, is
“ a vicious system, to be abandoned as
“ soon as possible. The system of contin-
“ gents did not arise from the mere solici-
“ tude for the people, but was a measure
“ alone of finance and control, to enable
“ government to derive a revenue from a
“ high price imposed on the consumer,
“ and to keep the whole body of the peo-
“ ple dependent on its pleasure for sub-
“ sistence. I recommend a radical reform
“ in this branch to the serious and early
“ attention of government. The principle
“ of encouraging industry in the cultiva-
“ tion and improvement of lands, by cre-
“ ating an interest in the effort and fruits
“ of that industry, can be expected in Java
“ only by a fundamental change of the
“ whole system of landed property and
“ tenure. A wide field, but a somewhat
“ distant one, is open to this great and in-
“ teresting improvement ; the discussion of
“ the subject, however, must necessarily be
“ delayed till the investigation it requires

“ is more complete. I shall transmit such
“ thoughts as I have entertained, and such
“ hopes as I have indulged, in this grand
“ object of amelioration ; but I am to re-
“ quest the aid of all the information, and
“ all the lights, that this island can afford.
“ On this branch, nothing must be done
“ that is not mature, because the change
“ is too extensive to be suddenly or igno-
“ rantly attempted. But fixed and immu-
“ table principles of the human character,
“ and of human association, assure me of
“ ultimate, and, I hope, not remote, suc-
“ cess, in views that are consonant with
“ every motive of action that operates on
“ man, and are justified by the practice
“ and experience of every flourishing coun-
“ try of the world.”

The wisdom and sound policy of these liberal and enlightened views have been fully proved by the increasing happiness and prosperity of the colony, from the day they were practically adopted, up to the period of the transfer of the island ; and that the same system should be continued under the restored government appears to

be the decided opinion of the wisest and most clear-sighted of the Dutch colonists ; as well for its obvious justice and humanity, as from a conviction of its superior efficacy in every other respect.

At the same time measures were taken to abolish slavery, for the continuance of which, in Java, there appeared not even the plea of expediency. Their farther importation was forbidden, (for they were generally brought, for obvious reasons, from the neighbouring islands,) and regulations were formed for the protection and better treatment of those actually existing. They were not allowed, for instance, to be sold or transferred from one master to another, but with their own approbation ; they were permitted the right of acquiring property either by their own industry, or from the gifts of others, independent of the control of their masters, which they might appropriate, if they thought proper, after a certain term, to the purchase of their freedom, at a reasonable valuation, subject to the approval of a magistrate. An annual registry of each slave was also required, and

a tax laid upon that registry, the proceeds of which were applied to charitable purposes ; and, in any instance where this registry was omitted to be given in, the slave was declared free.

Although their present religion is that of Mahomet, (with a mixture of Paganism,) yet the numerous relics of Hinduism, in high preservation throughout the island, evidently shew that the latter was the original mode of worship. Indeed, Balli, one of the neighbouring islands, performs the Hindu rites at this day.

Batavia is considered, and with much reason, to be one of the most unhealthy spots in the world. But this character is applicable only to the town itself ; which, agreeably to Dutch usage, wherever they could find one, is built in a swamp. The effect of this, within seven degrees of the equator, is precisely what might be expected ; but at Ryswick and Weltevreden, where the ground rises, certainly, not above a dozen or fifteen feet, and situated within three miles of the town, health is retained, at least, as perfectly as in any other part of

India ; and it has been even said that a battalion of a regiment quartered there has returned a smaller sick report than the other, stationed in some part of England. No European, who can possibly avoid it, ever sleeps in the city ; but, after transacting his business, removes to the neighbourhood. Among seamen and soldiers, a night or two spent in Batavia is deemed mortal ; but this increased fatality among them proceeds evidently from their never sleeping there but for the express purpose of getting drunk ; and, when immersion in putrid and marsh effluvia, in so hot a climate, is applied to a body, rendered highly susceptible of their impression from previous ebriety, it is not to be wondered that a fever of the worst class should be the consequence. They are also not so likely, in these cases, to receive that prompt assistance (which alone can save them) ; for, conscious of having been irregular in their conduct, they are ashamed and unwilling to make application until it is often too late ; and the loss of a single day will, in severer cases, be attended, in all probability,

with the most dangerous consequences*, The insalubrity of Batavia is attributed, but with little appearance of justice, to the numerous canals which intersect the town; for they rather seem to do good, by acting as drains, in a marshy soil; and, if they are the receptacles of filth and carcases, (which appeared not to be the case,) it is the fault of the police, and not of the canals. Rice-fields, creating an artificial swamp, in addition to the natural moisture of the ground, certainly ought not to be permitted to exist in the immediate vicinity of a populous city; and cannot be at all necessary in a country, two-thirds of which is uncultivated.

The climate of Java may be varied at pleasure, from the suffocating heat of Ban-

* Captain Charles Ross, of the *Pique*, in the West Indies, among other judicious regulations of that excellent officer, (whose orders were neither multiplied nor confused, and, for that reason, more likely to be rational,) always considered a man found drunk to be an object for the surgeon's immediate care, in the first instance; and it is astonishing the good effect this had, not only in preventing drunkenness, but in obviating its effects.

tam, or Batavia, to the cool, and even keen, air of the mountains, where fires and blankets are necessary; which, to invalids requiring an immediate change of temperature, is an advantage of the highest importance.

It is extraordinary how defective all colonies are in seminaries of education;—a defect, more especially in those that are extensive and populous, for which there can be no good excuse, and is attended with much inconvenience; for either the youth of both sexes receive no education at all, or must be sent home, at a great expense, for that purpose. This would appear to be much the case at Batavia, for the young men required to fill situations of responsibility must be supplied by fresh importations; and the ladies, surrounded by a crowd of flattering slave-girls, generally *creolize** the whole day in a delectable

* Creolizing is an easy and elegant mode of lounging in a warm climate; so called, because much in fashion among the ladies of the West Indies: that is, reclining back in one arm-chair, with their feet upon another, and sometimes upon the table.

state of apathy, without any sort of occupation; at sun-set, perhaps, taking a short airing in the environs. The elder dames inveterately adhere to the *kubaya* (a loose sort of gown, or wrapper, sometimes richly embroidered), but the English and French modes are universal among the rising generation. They form a curious contrast on public occasions, for, although sumptuary laws exist, which prevent, more especially ladies, from wearing jewels beyond a certain amount, and appearing abroad attended by servants exceeding the number allowed for the particular rank of their husbands or fathers; yet all classes, male and female, seem privileged to *undress* themselves as they please.

One evening, on our passage outwards, at a grand ball given by the British army officers, on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, at the Harmonie, an elderly gentleman, in a full suit of black, highly trimmed, and in the cut of the last century, was seen strutting about the room with a white night-cap on his head. Indeed, at dinner, in the best companies, they do not

hesitate to wear their hats, if there is the least motion in the air, for they dread nothing so much as sitting in a current.

The villas of the councillors of the Indies are distinguished by having black instead of white statues in their fronts, and about their gardens. They are, generally, heavy-looking houses, situated on the Jacatra and Ryswick roads, but have an air of stateliness.

The restored Dutch government profess to act upon the principles which have been found successful during our possession; but a circumstance which occurred a short time before our arrival here evinced strong symptoms of a recurrence to the system of terror. A body of the natives, about five hundred in number, having had some dispute with the local authorities near Indra Mayo, whilst making representation about some hardship (which they had been lately freely in the habit of doing, whenever they considered themselves in any way aggrieved), were seized, and confined in a house, which, like the black hole at Calcutta, being too small for the prisoners, they, in desperation, attempted to break through the roof; when a body of military having by this time been

collected, they were fired upon, the greater part killed, and the remainder, in some way or other, destroyed. It is somewhat extraordinary that the Dutch, who are, at home, a very unassuming, plain, and moral sort of people, should have displayed, on so many occasions, a ferocious and blood-thirsty disposition in their colonies. Marshal Daendels, it is confessed, made many judicious arrangements by the vigour of his measures, had he only been a little more scrupulous as to the mode of obtaining his purposes ; but, to use his own expression, he “ found it necessary to put himself “ above the usual formalities, and to disregard every law but that which enjoined “ the preservation of the colony intrusted “ to his management.”

On one occasion he is said to have requested the magistrates to demolish their grand church in Batavia, which was not only in the way of some favourite scheme he had in view, but its cupola was the only land-mark for entering the bay, and, as such, greatly assisted the enemy's cruizers. The burgomasters ventured to oppose this project. In a very short time the church

was found to be on fire; and the building being thereby in a great degree consumed and damaged, the remainder was soon razed to the ground*. His great military road, carried some hundred miles across the island, cost the lives of thousands of the Javanese, who were sacrificed to the system of forced services. He appears to have been little less despotic with the whites; and many stories are told about him, "that he could even make hens lay eggs" "when he thought proper;" but, although all seem to agree that he carried a high and imperious hand, yet none dare, even now, speak ill of him, for fear he may return.

In equipping a considerable army, merely from the resources of the country, when entirely cut off from any communication with Europe, supplying them with a cloth adapted to the climate, and furnishing them with most of the other accoutrements, he put the manufacturing talents of the natives to the test, and he succeeded.

Sir William Keir, Mr. Fendal, and

* The incendiaries were never found out.

Mr. Cranssen, were still, at Batavia, for the purpose of finally adjusting the transfer of the colonies, with the commissioners of his majesty, the king of the Netherlands. The Dutch squadron was absent at the different islands, resuming possession of them. They had, as well as the land-forces, suffered a very heavy loss from deaths; and the Baron de Capellan, who is individually a man of humanity, and was extremely solicitous about their preservation, was stated to have personally interfered with the medical staff, who appear to have been much wedded to the old-fashioned practice, and to have given positive orders that the mode of managing the sick, which had been proved successful with our troops on the very same ground, should be adhered to.

The ship *Cæsar*, Captain Taylor, having been engaged to carry to England the embassy, with the officers and crew of the *Alceste*, being now ready for sea, her equipment having been expedited by the assistance of our artificers, his lordship embarked on the 12th of April, attended by Sir William Keir, and all his staff, and re-

ceiving, from the Dutch authorities, every mark of respect due to his rank. We sailed on the same morning, and soon cleared the Straits of Sunda, and proceeded with a fair wind across the Indian Ocean.

The gay scenes we had experienced for the last few weeks among our friends at Weltevreden and Batavia, and which we had enjoyed with the greater spirit from our previous adventures, made us more susceptible of the dull sameness attending our present *sky-and-water* view. But a circumstance occurred, of all others, producing the most instantaneous and effectual relief from this feeling of *tedium vitæ* or *ennui*. The ship, one morning, was declared to be on fire in the after store-room, and (to render the intelligence still more agreeable and interesting) close to the magazine, whilst the flames seen in that direction, and volumes of smoke now bursting forth, left no doubt of the fact. In a moment the liveliest bustle took place of listless yawning, and every mind was roused into a state of the highest activity. To be in a ship on fire in the middle of the ocean

is supposed to be the most awkward and unenviable situation in which a man of weak nerves can be placed. Some again assert that it affords, more than any other occasion, an opportunity for the display of coolness, presence of mind, and decision. Happily, there were not wanting many possessing the latter qualities, who, by pushing through the smoke to the point of danger, and scuttling the decks immediately above the place, succeeded in extinguishing the flames in about three quarters of an hour, but not without considerable difficulty and damage. Very fortunately it was washing morning, and, of course, buckets, and other water utensils, were at hand. Had the accident taken place during the night, or had it been unobserved for a few minutes longer, and the fire had communicated to some oil and other combustibles near it, no human power could have saved us. This alarming occurrence, so nearly proving fatal, was occasioned by an idle looby, belonging to the *Cæsar*, carelessly pumping off spirits with a naked light, in order to preserve the body of a *parrot*, which had

died the night before. It had the effect, however, of occasioning the most rigorous precautions in future.

Notwithstanding the crowded state of the Cæsar, two passengers, of rather a singular nature, were put on board at Batavia, for a passage to England: the one, a snake of that species called Boa Constrictor; the other, an Ourang Outang.—The former was somewhat small of his kind, being only about sixteen feet long, and of about eighteen inches in circumference; but his stomach was rather disproportionate to his size, as will presently appear.—He was a native of Borneo, and was the property of a gentleman (now in England), who had two of the same sort; but, in their passage up to Batavia, one of them broke loose from his confinement, and very soon cleared the decks, as every body very civilly made way for him. Not being used to a ship, however, or taking, perhaps, the sea for a green field, he sprawled overboard, and was drowned. He is said not to have sunk immediately, but to have reared his head several times, and with it a consider-

able portion of his body, out of the sea. His companion, lately our shipmate, was brought safely on shore, and lodged in the court-yard of Mr. Davidson's house at Ryswick, where he remained for some months, waiting for an opportunity of being conveyed home in some commodious ship sailing directly for England, and where he was likely to be carefully attended to. This opportunity offered in the *Cæsar*, and he was accordingly embarked on board of that ship with the rest of her numerous passengers.

During his stay at Ryswick he is said to have been usually entertained with a goat for dinner once in every three or four weeks, with occasionally a duck or a fowl, by way of a desert.—He was brought on board shut up in a wooden crib or cage, the bars of which were sufficiently close to prevent his escape; and it had a sliding door, for the purpose of admitting the articles on which he was to subsist; the dimensions of the crib were about four feet high, and about five feet square; a space sufficiently large to allow him to coil him-

self round with ease. The live stock for his use during the passage, consisting of six goats of the ordinary size, were sent with him on board, five being considered as a fair allowance for as many months. At an early period of the voyage we had an exhibition of his talent in the way of eating, which was publicly performed on the quarter-deck, upon which he was brought. The sliding door being opened, one of the goats was thrust in, and the door of the cage shut. The poor goat, as if instantly aware of all the horrors of its perilous situation, immediately began to utter the most piercing and distressing cries, butting instinctively, at the same time, with its head towards the serpent, in self-defence.

The snake, which at first appeared scarcely to notice the poor animal, soon began to stir a little, and, turning his head in the direction of the goat, it at length fixed a deadly and malignant eye on the trembling victim, whose agony and terror seemed to increase; for, previous to the snake seizing its prey, it shook in every limb, but still continuing its unavailing show of attack, by

butting at the serpent, who now became sufficiently animated to prepare for the banquet. The first operation was that of darting out his forked tongue, and at the same time rearing a little his head; then suddenly seizing the goat by the fore leg with his mouth, and throwing him down, he was encircled in an instant in his horrid folds. So quick, indeed, and so instantaneous was the act, that it was impossible for the eye to follow the rapid convolution of his elongated body. It was not a regular *screw-like* turn that was formed, but resembling rather a knot, one part of the body overlaying the other, as if to add weight to the muscular pressure, the more effectually to crush his object. During this time he continued to grasp with his mouth, though it appeared an unnecessary precaution, that part of the animal which he had first seized. The poor goat, in the mean time, continued its feeble and *half-stifled* cries for some minutes, but they soon became more and more faint, and at last it expired. The snake, however, retained it for a considerable time

in its grasp, after it was apparently motionless. He then began slowly and cautiously to unfold himself, till the goat fell dead from his monstrous embrace, when he began to prepare himself for the feast. Placing his mouth in front of the head of the dead animal, he commenced by lubricating with his saliva that part of the goat; and then taking its muzzle into his mouth, which had, and indeed always has, the appearance of a raw lacerated wound, he *sucked it in*, as far as the horns would allow. These protuberances opposed some little difficulty, not so much from their extent as from their points; however, they also, in a very short time, disappeared; that is to say, externally; but their progress was still to be traced very distinctly on the outside, threatening every moment to protrude through the skin. The victim had now descended as far as the shoulders; and it was an astonishing sight to observe the extraordinary action of the snake's muscles when stretched to such an unnatural extent—an extent which must have utterly destroyed all muscular power in any

animal that was not, like itself, endowed with very peculiar faculties of expansion and action at the same time. When his head and neck had no other appearance than that of a serpent's skin, stuffed almost to bursting, still the workings of the muscles were evident; and his power of suction, as it is erroneously called, unabated; it was, in fact, the effect of a contractile muscular power, assisted by two rows of strong hooked teeth. With all this he must be so formed as to be able to suspend, for a time, his respiration, for it is impossible to conceive that the process of breathing could be carried on while the mouth and throat were so completely stuffed and expanded by the body of the goat, and the lungs themselves (admitting the trachea to be ever so hard) compressed, as they must have been, by its passage downwards.

The whole operation of completely gorging the goat occupied about two hours and twenty minutes: at the end of which time, the tumefaction was confined to the middle part of the body, or stomach, the superior parts, which had been so much

distended, having resumed their natural dimensions. He now coiled himself up again, and laid quietly in his usual torpid state for about three weeks or a month, when, his last meal appearing to be completely digested and dissolved, he was presented with another goat, which he devoured with equal facility. It would appear that almost all he swallows is converted into nutrition, for a small quantity of calcareous matter (and that, perhaps, not a tenth part of the bones of the animal) with occasionally some of the hairs, seemed to compose his *general* fæces;—and this may account for these animals being able to remain so long without a supply of food. He had more difficulty in killing a fowl than a larger animal, the former being too small for his grasp.

Few of those who had witnessed his first exhibition were desirous of being present at the second. A man may be impelled by curiosity, and a wish to ascertain the truth of a fact frequently stated, but which seems almost incredible, to satisfy his own mind by ocular proof; but he will leave the

scene with those feelings of horror and disgust, which such a sight is well calculated to create. It is difficult to behold, without the most painful sensation, the anxiety and trepidation of the harmless victim, or to observe the hideous writhing of the serpent around his prey, and not to imagine what our own case would be in the same helpless and dreadful situation.

A lion, a tiger, and other beasts of prey, are sufficiently terrible; but they seldom, unless strongly urged by hunger, attack human beings, and generally give some sort of warning; but, against the silent, sly, and insidious approach of a snake, there is no guarding, nor any escape when once entwined within his folds.

As we approached the Cape of Good Hope, this animal began to droop, as was then supposed, from the increasing coldness of the weather, (which may probably have had its influence,) and he refused to kill some fowls which were offered to him. Between the Cape and St. Helena he was found dead in his cage; and, on dissection, the coats of his stomach were discovered

to be excoriated and perforated by worms. Nothing remained of the goat except one of the horns, every *other part* being dissolved.

It may here be mentioned, that, during a captivity of some months at Whidah, in the kingdom of Dahomey, on the coast of Africa, the author of this narrative had opportunities of observing snakes more than double the size of this one just described; but he cannot venture to say whether or not they were of the same species, though he has no doubt of their being of the genus *Boa*. They killed their prey, however, precisely in a similar manner; and, from their superior bulk, were capable of swallowing animals much larger than goats or sheep. Governor Abson, who had for thirty-seven years resided at Fort William, (one of the African Company's settlements here,) described some desperate struggles which he had either seen, or came to his knowledge, between the snakes and wild beasts, as well as the smaller cattle, in which the former were always victorious. A negro herds-

man belonging to Mr. Abson (who afterwards limped for many years about the fort) had been seized by one of these monsters by the thigh; but, from his situation in a wood, the serpent, in attempting to throw itself around him, got entangled with a tree; and the man, being thus preserved from a state of compression which would have instantly rendered him quite powerless, had presence of mind enough to cut with a large knife, which he carried about with him, deep gashes in the neck and throat of his antagonist, thereby killing it, and disengaging himself from his alarming situation. He never afterwards, however, recovered the use of that limb, which had sustained considerable injury from his fangs, and the mere force of his jaws.

These larger reptiles are seldom observed to be venomous, the smaller tribe being, in this respect, much more dangerous.

In this country they had a smaller species of snake, called *Daboa*, which is the object of their worship and adoration.

It is perfectly harmless, (to larger creatures,) and is tameable. Great attention is paid to any that are found, being lodged in their temples, and fed by the priestesses with rats, mice, and smaller animals. People who are sick apply to it for relief; and, should one of them happen to entwine itself around a pregnant woman, it is considered the happiest possible omen for herself and child. In this state she proudly marches through the town, sanctified, as it were, by the attachment of the snake, which encircles her naked frame; and followed by crowds, those who meet her falling on their knees, and snapping their fingers (the usual salutation) as she passes.

The Ourang Outang, also a native of Borneo, is an animal remarkable not only from being extremely rare, but as possessing, in many respects, a strong resemblance to man. What is technically denominated the cranium is perfectly human in its appearance; the shape of the upper part of the head, the forehead, the eyes (which are dark and full), the eye-lashes, and, indeed,

every thing relating to the eyes and ears, differing in no respect from man. The hair of his head, however, is merely the same which covers his body generally. The nose is very flat,—the distance between it and the mouth considerable; the chin, and, in fact, the whole of the lower jaw, is very large, and his teeth, twenty-six in number, are strong. The lower part of his face is what may be termed an ugly, or caricature, likeness of the human countenance. The position of the scapulæ, or shoulder blades, the general form of the shoulders and breasts, as well as the figure of the arms, the elbow-joint especially, and the hands, strongly continue the resemblance. The metacarpal, or that part of the hand immediately above the fingers, is somewhat elongated; and, by the thumb being thrown a little higher up, nature seems to have adapted the hand to his mode of life, and given him the power of grasping more effectually the branches of trees.

He is corpulent about the abdomen, or, in common phrase, rather *pot-bellied*, looking like one of those figures of Bacchus

often seen riding on casks ; but whether this is his natural appearance when wild, or acquired since his introduction into new society, and by indulging in a high style of living, it is difficult to determine.

His thighs and legs are short and bandy, the ankle and heel like the human ; but the fore part of the foot is composed of toes, as long and as pliable as his fingers, with a thumb a little situated before the inner ankle ; this conformation enabling him to hold equally fast with his feet as with his hands. When he stands erect he is about three feet high, and he can walk, when led, like a child ; but his natural locomotion, when on a plane surface, is supporting himself along, at every step, by placing the knuckles of his hands upon the ground. All the fingers, both of the hands and feet, have nails exactly like the human race, except the thumb of the foot, which is without any.

His natural food would appear to be all kinds of fruit and nuts ; but he eats biscuit, or any other sort of bread, and sometimes

animal food. He will drink grog, or even spirits, if given to him ; and has been known repeatedly to help himself in this way : he was also taught to sip his tea or coffee, and, since his arrival in England, has discovered a taste for a pot of porter. His usual conduct is not mischievous, and chattering like that of monkeys in general ; but he has rather a grave and sedate character, and is much inclined to be social, and on good terms, with every body. He made no difficulty, however, when cold, or inclined to sleep, in supplying himself with any jacket he found hanging about, or in stealing a pillow from a hammock, in order to lie more soft and comfortably.

Sometimes when teased by shewing him something to eat, he would display in a very strong manner the human passions, following the person whining and crying, throwing himself off on his back, and rolling about apparently in a great rage, attempting to bite those near him, and frequently lowering himself by a rope over the ship's side, as if pretending

to drown himself; but, when he came near the water's edge, he always reconsidered the matter, and came on board again. He would often rifle and examine the pockets of his friends in quest of nuts and biscuits, which they sometimes carried for him. He had a great antipathy to the smaller tribe of monkeys, and would throw them overboard if he could; but in his general habits and disposition there is much docility and good nature, and, when not annoyed, is extremely inoffensive. He approaches, upon the whole, nearer to the human kind than any other animal.

On the 27th May we anchored in Simon's Bay, at the Cape of Good Hope, from which we sailed again on the 11th of June, steering for St. Helena, where we arrived on the 27th. The exterior of this island has much of that appearance which induced Madame Bertrand to term it the birth-place of the demon of Ennui; but the interior is not destitute of beauties, for there are many very pleasing spots situated in its different valleys.

One cannot help, in contemplating the calm tranquillity which reigns about Longwood (now the peaceful habitation of the greatest agitator of the world), being forcibly struck by the great mutability of human affairs.

Buonaparte had for a considerable time past been very retired and difficult of access, but he was perfectly disposed to see Lord Amherst; and on the day previous to our departure his lordship rode out there, accompanied by the gentlemen of his suite. He was introduced by Bertrand with not a little form, and had, as well as Mr. Ellis, a very long private conversation previous to the introduction of the other gentlemen, who in the mean time were attended by Generals Bertrand, Montholon, and Gourgaud, in the next room. At last they also were ushered in; and a ring having been formed by the Marshal round the principal personage of the group, Lord Amherst presented to him first Captain Maxwell, to whom he bowed very civilly, and said his name was not unknown to

him ; observing, he had commanded on an occasion where one of his frigates, *La Pomone*, was taken in the Mediterranean. “*Vous étiez très méchant—Eh bien!* your government must not blame you for the loss of the *Alceste*, for you have taken one of my frigates.” He said he was very happy to see young Jeffery Amherst, and good-humouredly asked him what presents he had brought with him from China, and so forth.

The author of this narrative he interrogated about the length of time he had served, and whether he had been wounded ; repeating the last question in English.

Proceeding next to Mr. Abel, (who was introduced as naturalist,) he inquired if he belonged to the Royal Society, or any of the public institutions, or was a candidate for that honour ; asking if he had been happy, in this voyage, in making any discoveries in natural history, which could add to our stock of knowledge on that subject. Whether he knew Sir Joseph Banks, whose name, he said, was a passport in France ;

and his wishes always attended to, even during war.

Mr. Cooke's name induced him to ask if he was a descendant of the celebrated navigator ; observing, " You had a Cook, who was, indeed, a great man." He requested to know, on Dr. Lynn being presented, at what university he had studied.— " At Edinburgh" was the reply.— " Edinburgh!" he repeated ; and went on to interrogate him whether he was a Brunonian in practice ; or if he bled and gave as much mercury as *our* St. Helena doctors.

Mr. Griffith, the chaplain, was next introduced, whom Buonaparte termed *l'Automonier*, and pronouncing, also, in English, *clair-gee-man*. " Well, sir," he continued, " have you found out what religion the Chinese profess?" Mr. G. replied it was somewhat difficult to say ; but it seemed a sort of polytheism. Not appearing to understand the meaning of this word, spoken in English, Bertrand remarked "*Pluralité de Dieux.*" — " Ah! *pluralité de Dieux,*" said he ; " do they believe in the immortality of the soul?" " I

think they have some idea of a future state" was the reply. "Well," said Buonaparte, "when you go home you must get a good living; I wish you may be made a prebendary, sir." Proceeding to Mr. Hayne, he also questioned him in some general way; and having now completed the circle, and said something to every body, he very courteously bowed to each of the party as they retired, who all felt much gratified at the opportunity of the interview. Although there was nothing *descending* in his manner, yet it was affable and polite; and, whatever may be his general habit, he can behave himself *very prettily* if he pleases. He is by no means so corpulent as is usually represented, and his health appears to be excellent. Longwood, from its situation, ought certainly to be highly salubrious. On the 2d of July we sailed from St. Helena, touched at the Island of Ascension on the 7th, and, on the 12th, crossed the line, and got into our own hemisphere. Our passage homewards was extremely favourable, on the 16th of August making the

land, and the next morning brought us to Spithead, from whence we landed once more in our native isle; not merely with the common feeling of happiness which all mankind naturally enjoy on revisiting the land of their birth, but with those sensations of pride and satisfaction with which every Briton may look round him, in his own country, after having seen all others.

END OF THE NARRATIVE.