



1704

**A Voyage Round the World.**

By  
**John Francis Gemelli Careri**

London  
**1704**





# THE PREFACE.

**T**HE Author Dr. John Francis Gemelli Careri, has here oblig'd the World with so excellent an Account of his Travels, that scarce any can be thought to exceed, and very few to be equal to it. He undertook this laborious and dangerous Task only to satisfy his own Curiosity, and gives the Publick a true Relation of what he saw in many Parts, where other Travellers had made it their Business to bring little but Fables and Romances. He omitted nothing in his Round worth observing, because his only Business was to see and be inform'd; and being a Man of Learning and excellent natural Parts, he had all the advantages of taking good Observations, and delivering 'em politely, which common Travellers generally want. He was a Doctor of the Civil Law, which sufficiently evinces his Learning; and as he tells us, besides his natural Curiosity, was further mov'd to Travel by Crosses and Misfortunes he met at home. Neither did he go as a Vagabond trusting to Fortune, but well provided with Money to make him acceptable in all Parts, and gain Admittance where others under worse Circumstances could not. Nor does he only give a judicious Account of what he saw, which is perform'd by way of Journal, but touches upon all Antiquities deliver'd by the best Authors, of Countries, Cities, and other Places and Things of Note. This of him in general, but to say something in particular of each Part or Volume.

In the first he assigns the Motives he had to Travel, and then beginning at Naples runs along the Coast of Calabria, crosses to Sicily, then sails along that Island till he comes to Malta, of which he gives a very exact Description; the same he doth of Egypt whither he sail'd next, and there of the Pyramids, Mummies, &c. whence he proceeds to the Holy-Land, the Island of Rhodes, the City of Smyrna, several small Islands, the Imperial Cities of Constantinople, Adrianople, Bursa, Trebizond, and many other Places in his way to Persia; with a succinct Account of the Religion, Manners, Antiquities, &c. of the Turks, and the Succession of their Monarchs.

The second Volume contains a curious Description of the Persian Empire, the distances from place to place, beginning at the Frontiers to Ispahan, the Court of that Nation; and thence down to Bander-Congo, a Sea Port on the Gulph of Persia. He treats of their Religion, Antiquities, &c. as in the other Books, and particularly sets down all the remains of Darius's Palace, with something of the Banians or Idolaters. Gives several Cutts of singular Curiosities; discovers some Mistakes made by Tavernier in his Travels, which he also does in his first and third Parts of Turkey and India. And having deliver'd all that may satisfy the nicest Reader, proceeds on his Voyage to Damian, the first City he came to in India.

The third Volume beginning at Damian, belonging to the Portugueses, runs along all that Coast, particularizing all that that Nation is possess'd of in those Parts; as Goa, Bazaim, Diu, and other Places; as also what is subject to Idolaters, and what to Mahometan Princes; most lively represents to the imagination the wonderful Pagod of the Island Salzere; not only describes, but gives all the





---

## The PREFACE.

---

the Cuts of the choice Fruits, and Trees that bear them; and excellently informs us of the Superstitions and Customs of those Gentiles. Whence the Author ventures by land to the Great Mogul's Camp, to acquaint us thoroughly with that Prince's Person, Progenitors, Practices, Wealth, Strength, and all other Particulars. This done he proceeds on his Voyage by Sea towards China; in his way delivers the best Accounts of those Countries he pass'd by in a Voyage of a thousand Leagues, which are no less than the rich Island of Ceylon, the golden Chersonesus, or Peninsula of Malaca, the vast Islands of Sumatra and Borneo, with many small ones, and the powerful Kingdoms of Bengala, Siam, Pegu, Conchinchina, Tunquin, &c. till he comes to Macao, the first Land of China, where begins

The fourth Volume which mentions every place great or small he pass'd through in that vast Empire, curiously sets down the distances, describes all he saw on the Roads, and all Cities as they deserve, as also the Rivers, Lakes, and Mountains, and particularly the great Tartar Wall, the Portuguese's City of Macao, and all that relates to it; and the manner of Travelling to the Court of Peking. He distinguishes ingenuously between what he saw and consequently writes of his own knowledge, and what he had from others, which still he took upon good Authority and mentions it for the satisfaction of the Reader. Having had the honour to see the Emperor he relates all that Ceremony, and what he knew of the Palace as an Eye-witness, the rest as he receiv'd it. The manner of the Emperor's going abroad he had from others, but so curious as the Reader cannot but like it. Other things as the Religion of China, the last persecution of Christianity, the Antiquities of the Empire, Government, Courts, &c. are collected, but curiously and well grounded.

The fifth Volume treats very particularly of all that is to be known concerning the Philippine-Islands, and then follows an exact Journal of his long and dreadful Voyage thence to Acapulco in New Spain, which is altogether new, and by the way describes California; laying down the Reasons there are to believe that the North Continent of America joins with that of Asia, or the great Tartary.

The sixth Volume being the account of what he saw in New Spain, mentions all that part he travell'd through, which is the Port of Acapulco, the Road thence to Mexico, which is not common, and thence again to Vera-cruz. But the Particulars he gives us of the Mines, of reducing the Ore and refining the Silver, of separating the Gold from the Silver, of the conditions upon which all Persons hold their Mines, and of the royal Mines, are most singular and curious.

In short, It is one of the most complete Works of this nature, and therefore I shall not need add any more in commendation of it, for it will sufficiently commend it self to the Reader.





## Chap. I.

A  
VOYAGE  
Round the WORLD,  
By Dr. John Francis Gemelli Careri.  
PART I.

Containing the most Remarkable Things he saw in  
TURKEY.

## BOOK I.

## CHAP. I.

*The Reasons that induced the Author to Travel, and an Account of what hap-  
ned to him in his Way from Naples to Messina.*

Gemelli.  
1693.

The Au-  
thor's  
Reasons  
for Tra-  
velling.

WERE it always in the power of cruel and unsteady Fortune, with whom we are daily to struggle, to reduce us to a miserable and wretched Condition; and could not a wise Man, by bearing up against its Injuries and Assaults, open himself a way to a more peaceable State of Life; our condition would certainly be too rigid and unhappy; and the great Work of that all-wise Artificer, who drew us out of nothing, appear the less perfect and valuable. Yet it often happens, that we are much in the wrong when we complain of Fortune; because when she seems most averse to us, she then often forwards us, to undertake some worthy Enterprize, and helps to raise us to a higher degree, obliging us, through necessity, to perform good and noble Actions. This may be plainly evinc'd by the whole course of my Life, which has been interwoven with such strange Accidents, that the very remembrance of them terrifies me; and yet to them do I owe the seeing of so many Coun-  
Vol. IV.

tries, the sailing such vast Seas, and if it may be allow'd me to hope for any, the Glory of these unpolish'd Lines. I cannot deny, but that it was my natural Curiosity and Desire of Travelling about the World, (tho' often disappointed) that made me undertake the Voyage of Europe, in the year 1683. whereof I afterwards printed only the first Volume; but it is as certain, that I had no other reason to undertake this other dangerous and painful Voyage, but the unjust Persecutions, and undeserved Outrages I was forc'd to endure.

Being therefore resolv'd to set forward, not regarding the loving Persuasions of Friends, who made an Argument of the Distemper I labour'd under, to divert me from my purpose; and having provided all Necessaries, I took my leave of them, and particularly of the Counsellor Amato Damio, of the Judge of the Vicaria D. Joseph Charves, now a Counsellor, of F. Alonso Risi, Knight of Malta, and of Dr. Laurence Sandalari. This done, without farther delay, I embark'd on Saturday the 13th  
A of

He Em-  
barks



of June, 1693. on a *Felucca* of *Naples*, to carry me into *Calabria*, in order to go over from thence into the *Levant*.

Having sail'd 50 Miles, we landed at Night on the Shore of *Amalfi*, so call'd of a City of that Name, which owes its Foundation to certain Families of *Romans*, who sailing towards *Constantinople*, about the year of our Lord 829. and finding in this place a safe Harbour, after a dreadful Storm at Sea, stay'd here to build it, and settled their Abode. Nor do I think it at all strange, as some do, that they should build it in so craggy a place among such steep Rocks; when I consider, that in those Times, when all *Italy* was infested by barbarous Nations, every one endeavour'd to fix himself in the strongest place he could. From that time forward it was govern'd as a Commonwealth, till Times changing, and the *Grecian* Emperors having lost that Kingdom, this City became subject to Barons. At present it is a Demesne of the Crown, and beautify'd with many curious Structures, erected by several Families on account of the wholesomeness of the Air.

The *Spanish* Nation owes the Discovery of a New World, and the *Portugues* that of the *East-Indies*, to *Flavio Gioja*, a Native of the City of *Amalfi*, as being the inventor of the Use of the Loadstone, without which they could never have ventur'd out so far into the vast Ocean, to discover unknown Empires, nor have found any method to steer their Ships so regularly through the boundless Waves of the Sea. *Amalfi* is also famous, because a Citizen of it was Founder of the Noble Order of *S. John* of *Jerusalem*, or *Malta*; but above all, for preserving in its Cathedral, which is an Archbishop's See, the Body of the glorious Apostle *S. Andrew*, brought thither from *Constantinople*.

*Licosa*  
Point.

The Weather proving unfit for Sea on Sunday the 14th, we set out on Monday the 15th, and having sail'd about 40 Miles, near Night-fall, put into the Point of *Licosa*, formerly call'd *Leucosia*, where we found very bad Entertainment at the Inn.

*Palinuro*  
Town.

Tuesday 16. putting to Sea again, we sail'd 36 Miles to *Palinuro*, a place so call'd from *Palinurus*, Pilot to *Eneas*, who is said to have dropp'd into the Sea near this Shore, and swimming to Land, to have been kill'd by the Inhabitants. Here we found a wretched Inn; not because there was any want in the place, but because our Host was a compound made

up of an excellent Thief, and a base Cook.

Running 40 Miles farther, on Wednesday 17. we put into *Scalea*, a Town on a Rock, at the foot of vast high Mountains, where we were forc'd to continue Thursday 18. by reason of the foul weather. Friday 19. we advanc'd as far as *Paola*, where the Inn was nothing better than that of *Palinuro*. The chief thing this City can boast of, is its being the place of the Birth of *S. Francis*, the Founder of the *Minims*, and where he wrought his greatest Wonders. As to other particulars, it has good Buildings, and a Castle on the Eminence that commands it.

*Scalea*  
Town.

*Paola*  
City.

Saturday 20. we sail'd 60 Miles, and came betimes to *Pizzo*, a Town seated on a Rock almost flat at top; whence there is a delightful Prospect along the pleasant Shores of the noble Country of *Calabria*, and upon the open Sea. I stay'd there Sunday 21. at the request of Friends, but Monday 22. taking leave of them, went aboard the Vessel, and having run 30 Miles, arriv'd at the City *Tropea*, seated after the same manner as *Pizzo*. The Nobility there have the privilege of acting in a distinct Body from the Commonalty in publick Affairs.

*Pizzo*  
Town.

*Tropea*  
City.

Having stay'd here Tuesday 23. upon some business; on Wednesday 24. we cut across the Bay, and having sail'd 24 Miles, ended this short Voyage on the Shore of *Gioja*. Having landed my Baggage, I caus'd it to be carry'd on Horses to the Town, a Mile distant, where I continu'd all Thursday 25. to rest my self, being weary of the Sea.

Friday 26. my Brother Dr. *John Baptist Gemelli*, a Man of an exemplary Life, and most innocent Behaviour, came to meet me from *Redicina*, bringing Horses with him, and would needs have me spend those few days I had, to provide Necessaries for my Voyage at his House. I thankfully accepted his kind offer, and on Saturday the 27th, we went together to *Redicina*, which was 10 Miles distant. Several Persons came on Sunday 28. to bid me welcome, and wish me a good Voyage. Monday 29. I went out a shooting, the Country being plain and full of Game; and would have done the same the two following days, had I not been employ'd in providing for my Voyage, yet on Thursday the 2d of July, I went out upon the Plains of *Gioja*, and had the pleasure of killing some Pheasants. The Air of the place being bad, I return'd





*Gemelli.* turn'd to *Rediviva* on *Friday* the 3d, much  
tir'd.

1693.

Considering with my self what unexpected Dangers and Accidents might happen in so long a Peregrination, on *Saturday* 4. I made my Will, and left it seal'd, and on *Sunday* the 5th made a Confession of my Sins, and, tho' unworthy, receiv'd the blessed Sacrament; praying to God to bring me home safe from the difficult Undertaking I had in hand. I shall not stay to mention the tears and tender Embraces at parting with my Brother, as not knowing whether he should ever see me again: To lessen his Grief, I told him, I intended only for the *Holy Land*, and thence to return as soon as possible; tho' at the

same time I had absolutely resolv'd not to settle till I had taken a view of *China*, and could be an Eye-witness of so many Fables as are deliver'd to us, among some few Truths.

I set out on *Monday* 6. to Embark at *Palmi*, 12 Miles distant, and came thither before Noon; where I was generously Entertain'd by *John d' Aquino*, a Gentleman of that Town. Then dismissing *James Romeo* my Steward (who came out of kindness to bear me Company) I Embark'd on *Tuesday* the 7th for *Messina*, and having cross'd the Narrow Streight, sailing in all 24 Miles, arriv'd in that City before Night. *Joseph Lacquanti*, a Gentleman of *Rosarno*, who was Marry'd there, entertain'd me at his House.

## CHAP. II.

*A short Description of Messina, and an account of all the Author saw till he came to Malta.*

*Messina*  
describ'd.

THE City *Messina*, formerly call'd *Zancle*, is seated in the Province of *Valdemone*, in the Eastern part of the Island of *Sicily*, and in 39 degrees and 12 minutes of Latitude. It is reported to have been built by the Giant *Zancle*, in the year of the World 1435. and that it was join'd to *Italy*, as well as the rest of *Sicily*. Its Figure is long, by reason of the Hills that surround it, and has the finest Harbour in the World for capaciousness and safety, and for its delightful Shores, embellish'd above a Mile in length, with stately Palaces uniformly built, the curious Iron Balconies being all of an equal height. Here the Ships seem to ride secur'd in the Arms of the Earth, their opposite Element, the Anchoring is so very good; which makes me admire that *Tavernier*, lib. 1. 2. par. cap. 13. who reckons *Goa*, *Constantinople*, and *Toulon*, the best Ports of our Continent, should make no account of that of *Messina*, which is so far from being inferior to any of those above-mention'd, that it may be call'd the prime Mart of *Europe*, and a necessary thoroughfare to all Parts of it. The Mouth of it is guarded by the Castle *Salvadore*, by the Citadel, and other Forts.

As for the City, it is an Archbishoprick, and the Mint of that Kingdom. Famous Men have flourish'd there in all Ages, and at present it is adorn'd with Professors of all Sciences, and an Aca-

Vol. IV.

demy of Virtuoso's. The Churches are beautiful enough, the Palaces magnificent, the Streets wide; the Ladies beautiful and witty; the Air temperate; the Soil fruitful, the Suburbs large, and the Sea may be call'd a Pond, containing all sorts of Fish to please the Appetite. In short, this City is plentifully furnish'd with all that can be desir'd for Food, Cloathing, and Delight, and the more for the Neighbourhood of *Calabria*, which continually affords it a most pleasing Prospect of its rich and fruitful Lands. It has ever been Loyal to its King, and the Inhabitants ready to serve him with their Lives and Fortunes; and if of late years some of its Natives, of restless Spirits, and lovers of novelty, incurr'd the Royal Displeasure, the crime of a few, and the corruption of part of the Members, is not to lay a blemish upon the whole Body, and infect the other Members; since those being cut off, as rotten Limbs, and the part that was tainted being cauteriz'd, the evil has been not only retriev'd, but absolutely abolish'd.

That very day, being the 7th, I look'd out for some Vessel bound for *Malta* (there being none so ready for the *Levant*, as I had imagin'd, by reason of the War then raging throughout *Europe*) and agreed for my Passage aboard a Tartan of *Malta*, then ready to sail; the Master of it telling me, he

A 2

would





Gemelli.  
1693.

would sail on the 9th in the Morning, I endeavour'd to make my self ready on *Wednesday* 8. but found he was endeavouring to get away that very Morning. Thinking I could not get ready in time, I caus'd my Baggage to be put aboard, and in the mean while apply'd my self to dispatch a business of moment. I concluded what I went about with all possible expedition, but yet found the Tartan was gone, and, what was worst, with all I had; and I knew neither the Master's, nor the Vessel's Name. This did not daunt me, but enquiring at the Custom-House, was inform'd that the Tartan was gone to *Ali*, to load with Wine; and therefore not thinking fit to lose any time, for as much as the loss of my Equipage would quite break off my intended Journey, I went that same day aboard a Feluca, bound for *Agusta*, taking a short leave of *Lacquant* and his Wife.

We sail'd with a fair Wind through the famous and dangerous Streights of *Messina*, diverting my Melancholy by casting my Eye towards the left, upon the delicious Gardens of *Cotona* and *Reggio*, and towards the right on the beautiful *Drommo*, a Suburb of *Messina*, which stretches out for several Miles in pleasant Country-Houses and Gardens; then upon the Village of *S. Stefano*, and upon *S. Placido*, a Monastery of Benedictines, seated on an Eminency, which by reason of its advantageous Situation, was the cause of many bloody Frays between the French and Spaniards, in the last War of *Messina*. Keeping my Eyes still fix'd upon the Land, in expectation of finding the Tartan, I observ'd *Briga*, *Pezzulo*, *Giampileri*, *la Scaletta*, *Aitala*, *Ali*, *Fiume di Nisi*, *Savoca*, and other Villages seated near the Sea-side. The Tartan was close up in *Ali*, but the Master of the Felucca, to save putting me ashore, said it was another, and therefore continuing our Voyage, not without anguish of Heart we pass'd by *Taurromina*, a Royal City seated on a Mountain, and 30 Miles distant from *Messina*. From this place appear'd to the view *Calatabiano*, *Mascari*, *Jaci*, *Ognari*, and the ground of the City *Catania*, utterly ruin'd, and bury'd in the Ashes of its Neighbouring Mountain, after the dreadful Earthquake which hapned that same year. The few Citizens that remain'd unbury'd, live in poor Cottages about *Jaci* Gate. Having seen this deplorable Spectacle, the Sun shining out on *Thursday* 9. we proceeded on our Way

Catania  
destroy'd

(having run 60 Miles) without Landing, and leaving behind us the Royal Cities of *Lentini* and *Carlolentini*. At Noon we put an end to this short Voyage of 90 Miles, arriving at *Agusta*.

*Xiphona*, now call'd *Agusta*, was first put into a posture of Defence by the Emperor *Frederick II.* and afterwards better Fortify'd. Hither the Knights of *St. John* of *Jerusalem* retir'd, after the loss of *Rhodes*, before *Malta* was given them. This City had the same misfortune as *Catania*, being overthrown by the last Earthquake, and therefore the People, like the others, liv'd in Cottages. The Castle, which was one of the best in *Sicily*, as well for the natural Strength of the Place, as for the great Fortifications about it (having two Bridges and four Gates to the Sea) was much damag'd, especially the Dwellings of the Soldiers. The City lay to the East along the Hill, and had a good port, defended by 4 Forts.

Agusta  
City.

Going aboard another Vessel, I came in the Evening in sight of *Siracusa*, or *Zaragoza*, a City that had suffer'd much by the Earthquake. As far as I could perceive from the Sea, it is commodiously seated, with a large Castle on the South, and a Fort on the North. Here we were seiz'd with much fear, seeing the Boat of a Vessel which we thought to be a Turk coming aboard us, inasmuch that we ran ashore to defend our selves under the shelter of the neighbouring Rocks; and, in short, we oblig'd the Boat to make away; which it seems belong'd not to Pirates, but to the Town of *Trapano*.

Siracusa.

That Night we could not advance much, and therefore on *Friday* the 10th lay in sight of the City *Noto*, destroy'd as well as the rest by the Earthquake. At Night we lay at the Fishery of *Cape Passaro*, where I had Salt-Fish presented me for my Voyage. Here the *Maltese* Galliot and Brigantine, that guard the Channel, were at Anchor, but they could give me no account of the Vessel I went in quest of.

Noto City.

Going aboard again on *Saturday* 15. the contrary Wind oblig'd us to Land on the Shore of *Spaccasurno*, 55 Miles from *Siracusa*. *Sunday* 12. having sail'd 40 Miles, we arriv'd at *Brazzetto*, a Town on the shore of the Town of *Santa Croce*, whence that Night I went to *Scoglietti*, in the County of *Modica*, to get another Vessel to carry me to *Malta*.

Accordingly *Monday* 13. I went aboard a small Bark to cross that narrow Sea,

Sea,



## Chap. II. Of TURKEY.

5

*Gemelli.* Sea, there being no better Vessel, and being becalm'd a few Miles at Sea, we stood in great fear of *Turkish* Pirates, that Passage of 60 Miles being never free from them in Summer.

The Calm continu'd Tuesday the 14, when seeing the Boat of a *Tartan* making towards us, and believing them to be *Rovers*, we forsook ours Loaden with Wood, and defenceless, and fled in our Boat, the Seamen not allowing me so much liberty as to take my Gun. The others seeing us fly, forbore pursuing any further; by which we perceiving that the *Tartan* was of *Malta*, return'd to our Bark, and continu'd there all the rest of the day. The Wind coming up in the Evening, we Sail'd all Night, and got into the Port of *Malta* on Wednesday 15th before Day, but waited for *Prasick* till two hours after Sun Rising.

*Malta*  
Island.

The Port.

The Island of *Malta* was given to the Knights of *St. John of Jerusalem*, by the Emperor *Charles* the V. for the yearly Tribute of a Hawk, which at present the Vice-Roy of *Sicily* receives in the name of his Catholick Majesty. Its length from East to West is 22 Miles, the breadth 12, and the compass 60. The City of *Malta* is in 35 degrees, 40 min. of Latitude, and enjoys an excellent Climate. It was besieg'd by the *Turks* with a great Power, in the Year 1565, but without success. The Port lies to the Northward, and is large, and can contain very many Ships, dividing it self into several very deep Bays; in the most retir'd Part whereof is the place call'd *Bormola*, on the right of it, the Borough, and on the left the Island, Places Inhabited by the common sort, who are about 3000 Souls. The Entrance of this Port is well defended on the side of the City, by the Castle of *St. Elmo*, which is well furnish'd with Cannon, has a deep Ditch, and other Fortifications; and by 10 pieces of Cannon planted on the Wall; further up by *Barracca Vecchia*, on which there are 10 pieces of Cannon above, on Arches, and as many below: Still further up beyond the Gate of *Italy*, by 17 Guns on the upper, and 20 on the lower Battery. On the opposite side, it is defended by the new Fort of the Island, *Castel S. Angelo of Borgo*, and the new Castle of *Recasoli*, where the Guns were not yet mounted, but it may be speedily furnish'd from the City, if there be need; so that the Port is inaccessible,

and the City impregnable, because seated on a vast high Rock, which towards the Sea is naturally Fortify'd by Precipices, and furnish'd by Art with mighty Forts, Walls and Towers. On the Land side, the whole compass of three Miles, which contains the City, it is well furnish'd with Cannon, not only on the particular Forts and Batteries, but along the whole extent of the Wall, being a delicate Walk from the Port to the *Lazaretto*, and may be gone in a Coach.

The Port of the aforesaid *Lazaretto*, call'd *Marsciamsfet*, which growing deeper within, keeps Ships in safety close under a Rock, would not be inferiour to the other for conveniency, were it not appointed only for the Ships that come from the *Levant*. Besides these two Ports, they told me, there were many more very commodious in all the three Islands, and all defended by Forts.

The City, tho' small, is not inferiour to the best in *Italy* for beauty; for tho' seated on a barren Rock, yet Art has exerted it self to make it delightful, yeilding an excellent Prospect from the Sea, and from the Land, representing a curious Flower, always odoriferous; neither the hardness of Winter, nor the violence of other Seasons ever withering it, tho' it is very hot in Summer, as being seated on a Rock. The Plain of it is like the Superficies of a Hand the length from North to South, with ten strait Streets, very well Pav'd, which divide it; that is, five on the West, three on the East, which are steep and crooked, and two on the top Plain. This unevenness of the Ground is no way offensive to the sight, but rather adds to its beauty, there being no place for any filth to lie, all being carry'd away to the Sea, which makes the Palaces and publick Places of the City appear the more graceful. The breadth of it is cut by two Streets running from East to West, both large and plain. It has three Gates, the most frequented of them is that of *Mole*; in the Ditch whereof, there is a great Orchard of Lemons and Oranges for the use the great Master. The other is the Land Gate, and the third that of the *Lazaretto*, without which there is a Powder House, besides those within. On the Land side, there are two deep Ditches running from the *Lazaretto* to the Port, with a double Wall undermin'd.

The





Gemelli.  
1693.

The three Islands I mention'd before, are *Malta*, 60 Miles in compass, shap'd like a Tortoise, and in it, the old and new City, from which it takes Name; but the old one at present does not contain 2000 Souls. The second Island is *Comona*, 10 Miles in compass, with a Fort in it; and the third call'd *Gozo*, the most fruitful of them all, and has a good Fort commanded by a Knight of the Order. All three Islands contain about 60000 Souls, in 30 Towns and Villages; most of them fierce and Warlike, as being of *Moorish* Extraction and Customs. The Knights of the Order, who are Subjects to his Catholick Majesty, have the privilege of being Governours of the Castles of *St. Elmo*, and *St. Angelo*, excluding all other Nations, and their Government lasts two years.

The Great  
Master.

During my stay at *Malta*, I lodg'd in the Monastery of the *Franciscans*, of the Invocation of *St. Mary* of *Jesus*, where the Religious Men entertain'd me civilly. After Dinner I went to the *Carmelite* Church, where I hear'd good singing of Eunuchs, it being their Festival of our Lady. Thursday the 16th. the Great Master came to hear Mass in that Church, a Canopy being prepar'd for him. Thence he went to *St. Johns*, whither I follow'd to see the Ceremony. The Great Master sat on the right Hand of the Altar, on a Throne of Purple Velvet, with Gold Fringes, plac'd within the Rail of the High Altar, and enclos'd with Banisters of fine Marble: Opposite to him sat 16. of his Pages, on Benches cover'd with Red, Laced with Silver, and two others waited behind his Chair. On the Floor of the Church, four steps below their Prince, sat the great Crosses on Benches, made fast, cover'd with Leather, on which were Seats for 32 with Desks before them, to kneel at, cover'd with Carpets; on the sides, and along the middle, were ten other antient Knights, and below them places for the rest. The Great Master had the Gospel brought him to kiss, and was incens'd: The great Crosses kiss'd the *Pax*, and were incens'd with two Censers at the same time, one on the right, and the other on the left. The Great Master was clad in a thin black Silk, with a long Vest, as is worn by our Seminary Students, but with a Cape behind, and over all, a Cassock like a Priests, but shorter, on which was the Cross of the Order; the rest of his Gar-

ment was black, made after the *French* Fashion; when the Service was over, the Great Crosses and Knights attended him. I was told, the Great Master was much given to Country Sports, as is natural to the *French*, and was generally in his little Wood. His Name is *Adrian Vignacourt*, he is of an indifferent Stature, his Countenance lively and strong, tho' he be 76 Years of Age. His chief Favourite, is *Philip Charles Fredac*, Grand Prior of *Hungary*, whom he always keeps at his Table, as also the Great Senescal *D. Charles Caraffa*, of the Noble Family of the Dukes of *Bruz-zano*, and one other Knight in his turn. They say, The Great Master is allow'd 6000 Ducats for his Table, a Revenue of 20000 as a Temporal Prince, and as much as makes that up 60000, out of vacant Comendaries and Customs.

St. John's  
Church.

The Church of *St. John* has three Isles, the middlemost of them Arch'd, as are the 12 Chappels on the sides. The Walls are rich in Gold, and the Floor adorn'd with Marble. On the two opposite sides, were the Tombs of the Renowned Great Masters *Cottonier*, and *Gregory Caraffa* of the Race of the illustrious Princes of *Roccella*. As for the Divine Service, the Church is well supply'd with Chaplains of all Nations, who devoutly recite the Divine Office in the Choir every day.

Friday 17th. was a happy day for me, the Tartan that had my Equipage aboard arriving at Noon, and delivering me from the apprehension that my Travels would end at *Malta*. After Dinner I went to see the Great Master's Palace, seated on that plain part, where the two Streets are. Entering at the East Gate, on the right and left, were the Stables with 50 Horses and Mules. Further on is a Garden, and that, leaving the second Gate on the left, which is the way to *St. John's* Church, leads into another Court, in which there are two opposite Doors to the Great Master's Apartments. He makes use of that on the left for his private Abode, and of that on the right (whither I saw him go) for publick Functions. The Hall is one of the biggest that may be seen, richly hung with Crimfon Damask, with a Canopy of the same Fring'd with Gold. In this Hall, and the first Room within it, are painted the most glorious Enterprizes and Exploits perform'd by the Order. The third Room was adorn'd with the same Silk. The whole Palace is beautify'd with curious Iron Balco-

GreatMa-  
ster's Pal-  
ace.



## Chap. II. Of TURKEY.

7

Gemelli.  
1693.

Balconies, which grace it on every side. On the West side of it is a large Square, with a stately Fountain in it, and another on the South, where the Chancery Court of the Order is kept, and the Treasury that is daily paid in and out; the Treasure, design'd to supply publick Necessities, being kept in the little Tower in the great Master's Palace.

Women.

The *Maltese* Women wear a Vail after the *Moorish* Fashion, like the Hood of the *Spanish Chia*, with a long Peak spreading like a hollow Tile on the Forehead, being made of strong Past-Board. This Dress is common to the Gentry, who add to it an indented Edging, or Purling, and to the vulgar sort, the meanest of them wearing Vails of coarse Woollen, with a little sort of Petticoat a-cross the Head, which in Summer is as good as a Stove, in a Country so very hot, that I could not sleep in all the Night. In other respects the Women are very beautiful, agreeable, and in short, of the best Blood in Europe.

The common Coin is of Brass, and of high value, for changing a Zecchine (a piece of Gold worth Eight Shillings) they gave me but six pieces of Brass for it, valuing each of these Pieces at four *Taris*, three whereof make a Crown; a false Coiner here would make a vast profit.

Saturday 18th. I went to see the *Albergo de Italia*, or Italian House of Entertainment, where there is a Table for the poor Knights of that Country; but there are few that will come to this hungry Table, because the Order allows but two *Sicilian Taros* a head for their Expence. The Structure is stately, and of late embellish'd by the Great Master *Caraffa*. Not far from it is the *Albergo*, or Inn of *Castile*, and *Portugal*. Thence I went to see the Churches of the *Jesuits* and *Dominicans*, and another of the Souls in Purgatory, which are all but indifferent Fabricks. In my way home I went into the *Polverista*, a Palace of the Order, little inferiour to that of the Great Master, which is let, being divided into several Apartments. Below it I saw another, call'd *Della Camaretta*, a retiring place, where the Knights that are piously given, live in Community, paying a yearly Stipend, and apply themselves to godly Exercises.

The Hospital.

The Hospital of *Malta*, is one of the famousest in Europe, as well in regard,

the sick are serv'd by Great Crosses and Knights, and all in Plate; as for the good Order observ'd, notwithstanding the great number of Sick. Before it is a great Court, and on the sides a Noble Apothecary's Shop. Going up there is a small Gallery with sick Persons, and such another opposite to it; but going down, there is another of a vast length, with a great number of Beds on both sides, as there are in the other two Arms that form a Cross, the Chappel for Divine Service rising in the middle. This Hospital is so well serv'd, that many Knights when they are sick go into it to be cur'd.

Sunday 19th, the great Crosses were at high Mass, in long Garments of black coarse Stuff, with wide Sleeves, but short, hanging under the Passion Embroider'd on a Scarf of black Silk, the end whereof is ty'd to the Sword Hilt. The Great Master wore the same, having besides, a Purse by his side as *Almoner*. Behind the great Crosses, sate on twelve Benches, the Elders and Commandaries, and below them on the sides the Knights, of whom there was a great number. On the left of the Great Master, were the Officers of the Palace; that is, the Receiver, the Master of the Horse, the Chamberlain, and others, who sate on a plain Wooden Bench, but they wore the same Habit as the Great Crosses. The Mass was sung by the Prior of the Church. The chief place next to the Great Master was taken up by his Nephew, who sate on the first seat of the Great Crosses (as he did at all other Ceremonies) clad after the *French* fashion. He alone, after the Great Master, kiss'd the Gospel, and so made his Offering, having had the *Pax* given him, and been incens'd before the Great Crosses. I was told, that the great Crosses, when they sate in Council, wore another Garment with longer Sleeves, like that worn by the Senators of *Venice*.

After Mass I went to see the Great Master Dine. The Table was spread in the great Hall near the Canopy, under which was his Chair of Crimson Velvet, and four others of Leather lower at the end. On the first of these sate his Nephew, on the second, the Grand Prior of *Hungary*, on the third, the Great Cross *Cavarretta* of *Trapano*, and on the 4th. the Great Seneschal *Caraffa*. The Great Master was serv'd in gilt Plate, and his Meat was brought apart; the three Knights that carv'd were cover'd.



8 Part I. *A Voyage round the* WORLD. Book I.

*Gemelli.*  
1693.  
ver'd. The Great Master drank in a little Glas, the Health of the Knights present, which was as good as dismissing many of them, who made their Court round the Table; and it may be truly said, that no Prince in the World of his Quality is more nobly attended.

The first place in the Island, where this Noble Order resided, was Old *Malta*, afterwards *Castle S. Angelo*, where they withstood the terrible Siege of the *Ottoman Fleet*. At last they remov'd to the place where they now are, building such a beautiful City by reason of the conveniency of its Quarries, like *Naples*.

Monday the 20th. there put into *Malta* a *French Tartan*, sent by the Merchants of *Marseilles* to carry Advice to the French Vessels then lying at *Alexandria*, *Cyprus*, and *Tripoli* of *Soria* for fear of the *Dutch Privatiers*, that they might safely venture out of those Ports on their several Voyages, three *French Men of War* then cruising in the *Mediterranean*, which would secure them. Therefore to avoid wasting my time in Expectation of a better opportunity to Sail for *Constantinople*, whither I had resolv'd to go, I readily agreed to give twelve Crowns for my passage to *Alexandria*.

CHAP. III.

*The Authors Voyage to Alexandria.*

HAVING provided all Necessaries, I Embark'd on Tuesday 21th with a fair Wind, which held all Night, and Wednesday 22th. It fail'd a little on Thursday 23th, but came fair again on Friday 24th. and carry'd us in sight of the Island *Gozo*, West of the Kingdom of *Candia*, along whose Coast we ran with the same Wind, Saturday 25th. and Sunday 26th. It held on all Monday 27th. but Tuesday 28th. we had a tedious Calm. Wednesday the 29th. it blew somewhat fair. The Master of the Tartan being Young and unexperient'd, ignorantly took a fancy to make the High-land, for fear of falling in unawares upon the Flat of *Egypt*, and at break of Day, he found himself 50 Miles above *Alexandria*, in the Neighbourhood of *Roseto*; so that being to turn back, the Wind was full in our Teeth, and after much Tacking, we put in at *Bichier*, 18 Miles beyond *Alexandria*. This is a small Castle, provided with many Pieces of Cannon, and a Garrison of 200 *Turks*. About it, there are a few Huts of *Arabs*, barbarous in name and manners, and hideous to behold; these tho miserably poor, being wholly devoted to idleness, will not Work upon any account. There is a plentiful Fishery, and particularly of Mulletts, whereof for a Farthing they sell a large Cut, and the Roes of them dry'd for a quarter of a Ducat. The Natives live on the plenty of Fish and Fruit, for no sort of Flesh is sold there.

*Bichier in Egypt.*

The Master of the Tartan went ashore that same day, being Wednesday, and tho' it was late, would needs go to *Alexandria*, to deliver his Letters to the Consul; wherefore going ashore with him, we spoke to the *Aga* in the Castle, who gave him a *Fanizary* to conduct him thither and back again, for three Pieces of Eight and a half. Taking along with them a Horse and an Ass, which in those Parts Travel wonderfully to serve them both. The Master return'd on Thursday 30th. betimes, and had a Contest with the *Fanizary*, who would have as much more as had been agreed, for conducting him back, so that he was forc'd to go before the *Aga* with the *Jew* of the *Custom-house*, who decided the matter to the *French Mans* cost, tho' he had before pay'd three Pieces of Eight and a half to go and come; a piece of knavery those Barbarians often put upon Christians. This made me very apprehensive about the Landing of my Equipage, which I much dreaded to expose to the avarice of such Miscreants, by Landing it; but the Tartan being order'd for *Cyprus*, I resolv'd to put it aboard another Boat, without venturing ashore among such Thieves, to carry it by Sea to *Alexandria*, where I knew there were Christians, who could help me out, in case the *Arabs* should go about to put upon me; but the contrary Wind would not permit me to stir. Therefore on Friday 31th. I was forc'd to Land all I had; I put my self into



*Gemelli.*  
1693. into the Power of a *Jew* that was Custom-  
mer, of the two Evils choosing the least.  
But to say the truth, he attended me  
very kindly, causing his Wife to dress  
my Meat, and giving me a Room in his  
House, for half a piece of Eight a day.

The *Jew* having search'd my Baggage.  
Saturday the 1st. of *August*, about Sun-  
rising, I set out for *Alexandria* in a *Ger-  
ma* or Boat, and arriv'd there in the  
Afternoon. Here another Customer  
*Jew* search'd my Baggage, to recover  
his duty, because he of *Bichier* had  
search'd them only as his Deputy,  
but I found ways at both searches to  
hide some small things that were of  
most consequence. I went to lodge at  
the *Hospitium* of St. *Catherine* of the  
*Franciscan* Fathers of the Holy-Land, in  
whose Church I confess'd, and receiv'd  
on Sunday the 2d. to gain the Indulgen-  
ces of the *Portiuncula*, giving thanks to  
God for my happy arrival in *Egypt*, af-  
ter a Voyage of 1200 Miles, or 400  
Leagues from *Malta*.

*Alexan-  
dria* des-  
crib'd.

*Alexandria*, or *Scandaria*, as the *Turks*  
call it, was Built by *Alexander* the  
Great, according to the form drawn  
by *Dinocrates*; 322 Years before the  
Birth of Christ, and in the Latitude of  
30 deg. 58 min. It is seated on the  
Shore of the *Mediterranean*, on a Sandy  
Ground, and is longer than it is broad.  
The Old City is much disinhabited, and  
the antient Spot serves to preserve the  
Rain Water for the use of the Citizens.  
The new City is but ill peopled, stretch-  
ing along the Shore two Miles in length,  
and half a Mile in breadth; and it would  
have been reduc'd to a worse condi-  
tion, and perhaps utterly abandon'd, by  
reason of the unwholsomeness of the  
Air, had not the conveniency of its Har-  
bour, and free Trade, which makes it  
the chief Mart of the *Levant*, brought  
thither the Commerce of all the *Medi-  
terranean*, and Ocean, because of the  
convenient Carriage of Goods brought  
from the *Indies* up the Red Sea, and of  
those *Egypt* it self affords. It was for-  
merly a City 15 Miles in compass: It  
was reduc'd to the miserable, ruinous  
condition it is now in, by falling under  
several Masters, and enduring many  
bloody Sieges; but above all, by the  
Destruction made in it by *Antoninus Ca-  
racalla*, who fill'd it with Blood and  
dead Bodies, not to mention what *Max-  
imilianus Hercules* did to it.

Many Learned Men flourish'd in *Alex-  
andria*, bred up in its University; and  
it produc'd many glorious Martyrs for

confessing our Holy Faith. And were  
there nothing else, its former Antiqui-  
ty appears by so many Obelisks, Pillars,  
and other publick Structures, the re-  
mains whereof are to be seen to this ve-  
ry day.

That same day, I went about out of  
curiosity to view the Modern Buildings,  
in which I found nothing great, nor any  
thing remarkable in its Market places,  
there being in its *Bazar* or great  
Market, only two Rows poorly cover'd,  
and wretched Shops on both sides; and  
the Inhabitants are not in all above,  
15000 Souls. The Port is almost round  
the new City taking up one eighth part  
of it on the South-side. On the North  
is the entrance defended by a pitiful  
Tower on the East, and an indifferent  
Castle on the West, but weakly Forti-  
fied, with a Bulwark to retire too near  
which is the *Mosque*, not to be seen, for  
they will not allow any body to go into  
it; and I drawing near to take a view of  
it, was in great danger, for the *Moor-  
ish* Children drove me from it with  
Stones, and some came forwards with  
their naked Knives in their Hands, de-  
manding Money, by means whereof, I  
sav'd my life, still flying as fast as I  
could, because the crowd increas'd, so  
that my Periwigg dropp'd off; a mis-  
fortune the *French* often meet with, and  
some times it proves fatal, for among  
those Barbarians it is dangerous to be  
given to curiosity, which is natural to  
me. In short, the *French* Consul charg'd  
me not to go far from his Quarter, but  
I not regarding it, broke the Injuncti-  
on, tho' with such eminent danger. In  
my return I observ'd, that there was  
another convenient Harbour to the  
Northward, form'd by a neck of Land  
lying between the City and the Sea.

Monday 3d. I went with a *Janizary*,  
assign'd me by the Consul, out of the  
City, to see *Pompey's* Pillar, it stands  
on a high Ground, which the Sea leaves  
between North and South. It is all of  
one entire piece of red Marble, except  
the Capital, Pedestal, and Base, on  
which there are certain *Egyptian* Hiero-  
glyphicks carv'd. The height of it is  
100 Foot, the Circumference 25, that of  
the Base and Pedestal 85. Some will  
have this Pillar to be four times as big  
as that of the *Rotonda* at *Rome*; and the  
Consul, who is a very ingenious Man,  
told me that a *French* Ingenieur had of-  
fer'd his King to take it down, and Land  
it safe in *France* without breaking, but  
that the Grand Seignior would not

*Pompey's  
Pillar.*

Observe,  
that in the  
Book the  
height of  
the Pillar  
is set down  
to be 100  
Foot, and  
in the cut  
but 100  
Spans,  
which is  
a fourth  
part less,  
and seems  
most pro-  
bable. The  
first may  
be a mi-  
stake in  
the Press,





*Gemelli.* consent to it. The following Cut will give the Reader a better Idea of it.

1693.

being but once mention'd whereas Spans are three times nam'd in the cut.

*Cleopatra's Pyramids.*

See Cut Number I.

Wednesday the 4th. I went to see *Cleopatra's Pyramids*. There are two of them near the Port, one of them demolish'd, the other standing. They are of a mixt marble, and carv'd with *Egyptian Hieroglyphicks* on all sides. I took not the Dimensions of them, but by what I could guess by my Eye, they seem'd to be 40 Spans about, and 70 in height. About the Old City, there are several Monuments of Antiquity to be seen, in great hew'd Stones, and other Structures demolish'd by time.

*Marc. Antony Tamborin* the French Consul, born at *Marseilles*, would not suffer me to continue any longer in the Monastery of the Fathers, but that I should lodge in his house, and Diet with some of his Country Merchants, and accordingly I remov'd thither Wednesday the 5th. Here we far'd very well, especially at Supper, at which we had above an hundred little *Cyprus Birds*, as the *Venerians* call them, which I should call

little *Beccaficos* of *Alexandria*, because they are fat and melt in the Mouth, there being nothing to throw away of them but the Feathers. Nine other French Men that Din'd at the Table, treated me with the same Civility, vying who should be most obliging to me, saying, That I being a stranger, who out of curiosity went about spending my Money, and observing what I saw, to make it known to other curious Persons, they were oblig'd to assist me as Parties concern'd, and use all their Endeavours that I might observe, and write all things compleatly; infomuch that other Nations paying 20 per Cent. Custom, and the French but three, as has been stipulated between the Traders of *Marseilles* and the *Turks*, they made me enjoy their privilege, as if I had been their Country-Man, which was much forwarded by *Arrigo Grimano*, a Merchant of that City, in whose House I left my Equipage, when I went thence to *Jerusalem*. This is a thing not to be slighted in that Country, where the Customs are farm'd for 250000 Crowns a year, including *Grand Caire*, *Roseto*, and *Damiata*.

## CHAP. IV.

*The Author's Voyage on the Nile, and Description of Grand Caire.*

THE French perswaded me to cloath my self after the Country Fashion, that I might appear less odious in the sight of the *Arabs*, and particularly the *Biduines*, who are Herdsmen, and live in Tents about the Country, carrying their Houses about, like the Antient *Nomades*. I took their advice, being to meet with several Bands of those barbarous People in the way I design'd to take. I order'd all my Affairs on Thursday the 6th. and on Friday the 7th. in the Morning, being clad like an *Arab*, went aboard a small *Saique* bound for *Bichier*, whither I arriv'd after three hours Sail. Aboard the same Vessel came a *Capigi*, Porter to the *Bassa* of *Cairo*, who gave me to understand by means of a *Few*, that he should be glad to go with me, and to share what conveniency he had for himself, offering me Money if I stood in need. Tho' I understood this to be a *Turkish* Compliment for his own ends, I took no notice, but return'd him thanks, be-

ing in a barbarous Country, where he alone could secure me against the infolency of the basest Rabble in Nature, for the *Turks* are Angels in comparison of the *Arabs*. This *Capigi* for a piece of Eight hir'd a small *Germa*, or Boat, in which we lay that Night for want of an Inn.

Saturday the 8th. we set out at break of day, but we had scarce Sail'd 4 Miles, when the Old *Capigi* began to be afraid, because the Wind blew hard, and the Sea ran high; and tho' the *Bey*, or Master encourag'd him with good Words, yet he could not shake off fear, but made the Boat return to *Bichier*. The *Turks* and *Arabs* are very fearful of the mouth of the *Nile* (which is 5 Miles below *Roseto*, because Ships are often lost there, coming in from Sea, and it is become a Proverb among them, That he who fears not the *Bogasi* (so they call the mouth of *Nile*) fears not God.

We therefore resolv'd to go one half of the way by Sea and the River, and the



the other half by Land; whereupon the insolent *Capigi*, making the *Bey* or Master return what he had pay'd for the Boat, which he ought not to have done, because the other had not been in fault, he hir'd another at the same rate to carry us as far as the Village of *Ethco*.

Gemelli.  
1693.

Being aboard again with a fresh gale, when after three hours Sail, we came to the mouth of the Bay of *Media*, we had like to have been lost, the Mast of the Boat coming by the Board, and I was washed from Head to Foot, with all my Manuscript. This mouth is made by the Sea, running 20 Miles into the Land, like a long deep Lake, a *Turk* compar'd it to the Entrance of *S. Malo* in *France*; People that Travel by Land cross it in a small Boat, but the Entrance from the Sea is dangerous. In this place it is usual to pay four *Medinos* (an *Egyptian* Coin) a Head, but the Authority of the *Capigi* clear'd me.

Being come to *Ethco*, 15 Miles from *Bichier* and as far from *Roseto*, we took the common conveniency of the Country, and about Sun set came to *Roseto*, all a sandy way, which produces no Grass, or any thing but Palm Trees, and it is so difficult going, that I wonder it did not kill the Asses. Generally speaking all *Egypt* is of this nature, the Natives making several uses of this sort of Trees, without losing any part; for of the Leaves they make Baskets, of the Twigs Cages, and Lettice Windows, of the Tree Beams for Houses, and the Fruit serves for Food.

The *Capigi* very civilly bore me company to the *French* Vice-Consuls House, where I took up my Lodging, after giving some few *Medines* for the Asses. This is an *Egyptian* Coin, worth about a *Roman Bajocco*, ten of which make a *Julio*, worth little more than Six-pence English.

Roseto described.

*Roseto*, or *Raschet*, as the *Turks* call it, was formerly *Cleopatra's* most beloved place of abode, because seated on the Bank of the best Branch of the River *Nile*, and the easiest for conveying the Merchandize brought from the *Mediterranean*, and thence to *Alexandria*. All along this Branch of the River as far as *Grand Caire*, there lie above 300 Villages, and small Dwellings. This City is but five Miles from the Sea, the mouth of the River there, being guarded by an excellent Castle. As for the Buildings, it looks more like a Village, and the more because it is open without a Wall, yet it may be counted very

populous, as containing about 80000 Souls, whereas *Alexandria* has not above 15000. Its Circumference is six Miles, its Figure almost round. For three Miles about it, there are good Orchards of fower Fruits; *Cassia* Trees, which are like the *Plane*, *Palmes*, and other forts, but planted without any order; nor are the Gardens divided into Alleys, those barbarous People taking no care to make them delightful, as the *Europeans* do, which yet would be very easie for them, by reason of the goodness of the Soil.

The *Bazar* of *Roseto* is more light than that of *Alexandria*, and all cover'd with Vines, producing delicious Grapes, as are the best Houses, which have all pretty good Gardens.

At *Roseto* the *Capigi* gave me to understand his Design, sending on Sunday the 9th. to ask some *Medinos*, a Coin before mention'd of me, which I sending him, and he perceiving how freely I gave, came himself at noon to exact a greater Sum, making the Interpreter magnify the great Service he had done me by the way, protecting me against the Insolencies of the Natives; in short, stating the account after his own mind, he requir'd what was not due to him; and tho' he was convicted of lying, yet he handled his grey Beard to gain credit to his Imposture, as if it had been a known truth, and therefore to avoid contending with *Turks*, I gave him what he demanded. The Vice-Consul told me, that those People were not satisfy'd to have the Charges of their Journey born, by those that Travel with them, but will get by them, sucking the very Blood, much more the Money of a *Frank*, for so they call the *European* Christians.

Having pay'd the Vice-Consul for my Diet, and made the necessary Provision, I Embark'd with a Servant on Monday the 10th. for *Grand Cairo*, aboard a *Measchi*, with a *German Franciscan* Father. This *Measchi* is a large Boat, with three Masts, and as many Sails, which carries a great Burden, and about 100 Passengers; but Persons of any Quality pay some small matter more than the common fare, and have a cover'd place apart from the Rabble, where I went commodiously with the Friar. The Wind blowing fresh, carry'd us on briskly, always in sight of curious Dwellings and Meadows; for the *Nile* rendring the Soil on both sides delightful, and fruitful in Rice, Corn,





Gemelli.  
1693.

and Fruit, easily allures People to settle their abode there; but especially the Island form'd by the two Arms of the River between *Rosero* and *Damiata*, is the fruitfullest in all *Egypt*.

First, we pass'd by two Villages, and after Sailing 10 Miles by *Mirimbel*, seated on the Island; then by *Muthubus* on the right, and *Deffin* on the left, then by *Samsair* on the right, and *Figar* opposite to it; higher up by *Beruths* on the left, and *Zendigon* on the right, all large Towns on the River, not to mention, other Villages. Here, they say, the best *Sal Ammoniack* in the World, is dug by reason of the dampness of the Soil, and Camels piss; but this reason is of no weight, there being no want of Camels throughout all *Asia*, and yet no *Sal Ammoniack*.

This Arm of the River we speak of, is about a quarter of an *Italian* Mile over, in some places more, in some less; the Stream gliding so gently, that with two Sails abroad, we run seven or eight Miles an hour against the Current, so that it is delicious Sailing along it in good Company.

Atl. 4 p.  
Egypt, Tw.  
Prov.

Nile River.

The River *Nile*, or *Abanchi* (which in the *Abissine* Language signifies Father of Rivers) or *Tacui*, as the *Ethiopians* call it, proceeds from two Lakes, or Pools, in the Kingdom of *Goyama*, subject to the Emperor of *Abissinia*, one of them call'd *Zambre*, and the other *Zaire*, whence crossing that Kingdom, *Ethiopia*, and other Countries it runs down to fertilize *Egypt*, and loses it self at last in the *Mediterranean*. The Water is muddy, but when settled, very good to Drink.

The Arm of the River we Sail'd upon is winding, so that there is no knowing how many Miles it is from *Rosero* to *Grand Cairo*, because it is not gone by Land, but some reckon 150 Miles. We had a good Voyage, the River being then at fullest. Modern Authors assign two Reasons for the Inundation; One is the constant Rains, which in *Ethiopia* begin with *April*, and continue 5 Months, the other the many Lakes, Pools, and Rivers in the Country, which being swell'd, communicate their Waters to the *Nile*. They say, the River begins to swell, when the Sun enters *Cancer*; it is highest in *August*, and declines in *September*, fatning the Soil to such a degree, that the Husband-men are forc'd very often to qualify it with Sand; were they not so sloathful, they might gather two Harvests in a Year.

The common Maps divide the *Nile* into six Branches, and make the greatest of them to run by *Alexandria*. In my time, I saw none but the two here mention'd. This mistake may perhaps proceed from the several Cuts made from the *Nile*, when it overflows the Country; which is a necessary evil, because in the upper *Egypt* it never Rains, and in the lower, only three Months in the Year, which are *December*, *January* and *March*.

The same Wind continuing fair for us, and all our three Sails being spread, tho' the Vessel crack'd, between Noon and Sun-setting we run about 60 Miles, leaving on the right *Fex*, *Selmih*, *Miniequirased* and *Edsuch*, and on the left *Aislab*, *Sumgrath*, and *Mecas*, all great Towns. At Night the Wind fell, and the *Nile* which before ran high like the Sea, grew calm; so that we made little way, but always in sight of well-peopled Villages on the Shoar. There were no Crocodils to be seen, because they never come down below *Grand Cairo*, tho' the Water be one or two Pikes length deep, which is not so at all times; for in the Winter the Voyage lasts eight or ten days, by reason of the shallowness of the Water, and sometimes they are forced to lighten the Boats to go forward, and the Country People use other Inventions to Water the Land.

The *Turkish* Diet is continual Penance; for the common Sustenance, even of those that are well to pass, is a sort of ill-made Bread, Garlick, Onions, and four Curds; and if they have a little boil'd Mutton, it is a great Feast among them. Pullets and other Fowl are utterly banish'd the Table, tho' in that Country they are very cheap. The honest *Capigi* far'd no better; but a *Tanizary* his Companion, being less scrupulous as to the Observance of the *Alcoran*, having spy'd a Bottle of Wine, I carry'd for my own use, brought it to a small quantity, asking for Drink every moment; and therefore I to encrease the little that remain'd, order'd my Servant to put Water to it, and by that means was deliver'd from the importunity of the Infidel, who afterwards did not like it, saying, *It was weak*.

The Wind quite ceasing, on Tuesday the 11th. Nine Persons went ashore, and hal'd the Boat along with a Rope, without Rowing, and thus we pass'd by *Scilmo*, famous for Corn shipp'd off there; then we left *Abici* on the left, and *Nahari* on the right, with other small Villages,



Chap. IV. of TURKEY.

13

*Gemelli.* lages and Islands, form'd by the River in some places. The Land, tho' naked of Trees, was Plow'd with Oxen and Buffalos. The *Arabs* love the Flesh of both, as also Mutton, which is there large and fat; the Sheeps Tails often weighing several Pounds, but it is tough. These *Mahometans* eat a small sort of Grain they have, which has the taste of a Chesnut, mix'd with parch'd Fitches.

About Noon the Wind freshned, and we made more way, but the winding of the River made it much longer. On the right side of the River, I saw abundance of Trees, like white Mulbery Trees, which bore a Fruit near the Trunk like Medlars, and sweet tasted, they call them *Giummis*, or *Pharaohs* Figs, to eat them, the *Arabs* slash them before they are ripe to let out the bad juice. When we came to *Chiaforzean*, they told me, we were half way. At Sun-set we found our selves near the Villages of *Sicabul*, *Nigili*, and *Comscirich*, the Wind being fair, which tho' it continu'd, yet the Boat stay'd at *Terrana*; the *Bey* or Master refusing to go any further on account of their great Festival call'd *Agiram Bairam*, or the Sacrifice to *Mahomet*.

Stopping at this Village two hours after Sun-rising, on Wednesday till they had ended their hellish Ceremonies, I took notice of a great heap of Earth, which they call *Natron*, dug out of a Neighbouring Hill, which they told me was shipp'd off for several parts of Christendom, to whiten Cloth, and take out Spots. On the left side of the River is a long sandy Hill, which runs as far as *Grand Cairo*.

Wednesday the 12th. we continu'd our Voyage, always in sight of Villages on both sides, and within view of *Mennuf*, a great City, six Miles up the Land, on the right of the Island. About Sun-set we pass'd by *Dulap* and *Nixas*, a Village where the *Nile* divides it self into two Branches, the one running towards *Roseto*, and the other to *Damiata*. We came to *Bulac* three hours after Night, by reason of the time spent on account of the afore-mention'd Festival. Here all the Boats that come from the upper *Egypt*, *Alexandria*, and *Roseto*, make a stop.

Thursday the 13th. at break of Day, I went ashoar, and saw the Country overflow'd by the River, like a Sea, being then out at its full extent. I was told, that on Friday the 7th. of *August*,

the *Bassa* attended by a great Retinue, perform'd the Ceremony us'd every Year, of cutting the Bank of a small Branch of the *Nile*, call'd *Xalic*, that the Water might run by new *Caire*, enriching the Country, and rejoycing the Hearts of the *Arabs*, who judge whether they shall have a good, or a bad Harvest by the rising of the Waters at the *Niloscope*, or measure of the swelling of the *Nile*, set up in an Island near Old *Caire*. This Ceremony varies every Year 7 or 8 days, according as the Waters increase sooner or later, which being come to the heighth, a Cryer Proclaims it to the People. The *Nile* at that time appear'd to me greater than the *Danube*; what it is when lowest, I shall say when I see it.

Having taken my leave of the *Jani-zary*, who lov'd strong Wine, I set out for New *Caire* upon Asses, and being come thither, lodg'd at the House of the *Franciscans*, in the quarter of the two Gates, being that of the *Venetians*, call'd *Hart*.

I found them at *Cairo*, celebrating the Festival of *Bairan*, which had been kept the Day before in the Villages. There was a great number of People in the burying places, holding Lights over the Tombs of their dead Friends; in the publick Places, all Persons vy'd in offering Sacrifices to their Prophet, of Oxen, Gelt Goats, Lambs, and Fowls. Besides the mutual Invitations and Treats, the multitude diverted themselves with beholding eight Children turning round upon a Wheel. During these Days, they did eat the Flesh of their horrid Sacrifices, especially of the Fowls, which are very cheap, as are the Pigeons, whereof there is a prodigious number in the Dovecotes of all the Villages.

Having rested my self in the Father's House, after Dinner, I hir'd two Asses, and went with a Fryar to Old *Cairo*, crossing the New, for the space of two Miles and a half, and as far over the Fields. Here also I lodg'd at the *Franciscans*; then I went to visit the Church of the *Grecians*, built within the Fort, to see the Arm of St. *George* kept there in a Chappel. The Church has nothing great, and the Castle is a dark Prison. They say, it belong'd to the Antient *Copti*, or Circumcis'd People, as did another adjoining to it, destroy'd by the *Turks*. These *Copti*, they say, were Masters of the Country. The wretched Remains of them, are still to be seen

Grand  
Cairo

Old Cairo



Gemelli.  
1693.

Joseph's  
Granaries

in a particular Quarter; but joyning to Old *Caire*, where they have 5 Churches, say Mass after their manner, obey their Schismatick Patriarch, and consequently are Enemies to Catholicks. They lead an austere and wretched Life, feeding only on Bread and Water, or at best on Herbs and Pulse.

Old *Caire*, seated on the right side of the Branch of the *Nile*, is almost disinhabited, there being not above 3000 Souls in it, and it is dreadful to see its Ruins scatter'd in all Parts. *Joseph's* Granaries which are there, are about a Mile in compass, with a Wall that closes them in. They are divided into 14 large Squares, in which Corn is lay'd up at this time in the open Air, because either it does not Rain in *Egypt*, or but a few small drops.

The Father Superior of the House, and another Father his Companion, both *Spaniards*, carry'd me to see the place, where *Moses* was found floating on the *Nile* in a Basket, by *Pharaoh's* Daughter; the Royal Palace then standing near that place; at present there is a *Mosque*, with Gardens and Houses of Pleasure. Not far from it is the Island before-mention'd, where they measure the increase of *Nile*. Along the Banks of *Caire*, there is always a number of Boats loaden with Corn, much better than ours, brought from the Kingdom of *Seyd*, which signifies happy Country, belonging to an *Arabian Mahometan* Prince, tributary to the Great *Turk*. These Boats perform their Voyage in 22 days, but with some trouble, because of the Crocodils. Opposite to this Great City, on the left side of the *Nile* is another call'd *Ciza*, the Head of a Government, and famous for the Houses of Pleasure, built there by the *Mameluke* Princes. In the Villages about *Caire*, the *Arabs* usually hatch Eggs in 14 Days, placing them in a Room, and making a Fire in the middle; during which time, they take care to turn them now and then, that they may receive sufficient heat. I would have gone to see this, but was told they did it in Lent.

Afterwards I went with the aforesaid Fathers into the Holy House, in which the Blessed Virgin dwelt seven Years, with the Infant Jesus, and St. *Joseph*, when they fled the cruelty of *Herod*. This is within the Church of the *Copris*; going down nine steps, near the left side of the Choir, supported by three Pillars on the right, and four on the left, which make three little partitions. In the

middlemost, about four Spans from the Ground, they show a hollow in the Wall, where our Lady lay with her Infant. In the apartment on the right, is the place where S. *Joseph* lay, and in the hollow of the Wall on the left, another little place, where at first our Saviour rested, when he came into the Grot. There is also a stone, on which they say, the Blessed Virgin wash'd, and a Stone Table on which they eat; They also show'd me a great piece of Timber and a Nail, which they said was of *Noah's* Ark. I went to see the *Greek* Church behind it, which is not large, and has but one Altar in the Choir, near which ascending eight steps, in the high part of the Wall is the seat of their Patriarch. At this Altar, the Priests say Mass, in the Old *Egyptian* Language, whereof they understand little, or nothing, they are so ignorant. Not far off is the Font, made like a Well, into which they let down the Water, Baptizing the Females 80 Days after they are born, and the Males 40, and sometime after they Circumcise them both.

Having heard Mass, I mounted my Ass to go home with the two *Spanish* Fathers. By the way I observ'd, That Old *Caire* in former Ages was a great City, its Ruins extending many Miles in Compass. I also took notice of the Aqueducts, which convey the Water of *Nile* into the *Bassa's* Castle, drawn with Engines out of the Stream, as of a wonderful Thing, as well because of the height of the Arches, as for the distance of three Miles. Then we met part of the *Bassa's* Retinue, going to wish a good Feast to a Lord of Old *Caire*, beating four Drums, and before them two *Dervices*, or *Mahometan* Religious Men, with their Cerical Caps on their Heads. But the best was to see a *Santone* of theirs, that is another sort of Religious Man, Naked, with a Cap on his Head made of several Rags, and a half Coat on his Back, and how those *Barbarians* ran in Crowds to pay their Respects to him; so that what for the Solemnity and this Concourse we could not go on, and were forc'd to take many Affronts from that Rabble, to save being Bastonado'd for answering. After some Stop, because of the narrowness of the Streets, one of the Servants step'd forward, and taking one of the Fathers by the Hood, had like to have pull'd him down to the Ground; and at the same time Reviling the other, because he had a little Dog in his Hand, saying



# Chap. IV. of TURKEY.

15

*Gemelli.*  
1693. saying, One Dog carry'd another. As I was going by I observ'd, That an *Arab* made show as if he would strike me with a long Staff over the Head (for there the Servants carry Cudgels, and the Masters Clubs shod with Iron, hanging at the Pommel of their Saddle) and he had certainly done it, but that a *Maronite* Christian held him; therefore the danger making me more cautious, I took off my Hood that was so odious to those *Barbarians*.

*Turkish Festival.*

The *Turkish* Festival continu'd *Friday* 14, abundance of Cattle and Fowl being continually Slaughter'd, whose Flesh the *Catholicks* do not Eat, because of the Superstition us'd in Sacrificing of it, and therefore they provide some time before. During this three Days Festival (which comes 11 Days sooner every Year) abundance of *Arabian* Men of Note appear'd mounted on good Horses (which is not allow'd to *Christians*) who are oblig'd to alight when they meet with or pass by any Officers of Justice. The *Janizaries* at the same time Exercise their Weapons in their several Quarters. Other Vagabonds with Bottles in their Hands sprinkle those that pass by with Rose-Water, to get Money of them. From the Window I saw eight Women in Masks go by, crying out as if they had been possess'd by the Devil. I was told this was the sign of a Wedding, and that they went about inviting the Kindred of the Bride and Bridegroom.

*Bigness of Caire.*

*Caire*, by some call'd *Memphis*, which others will have to be *Babylon*, is seated in the Latitude of 29 Deg. 30 Min. near the Right hand Bank of *Nile*. It was very Flourishing whilst it had *Sultans* and Kings of its own; and from that time has ever declin'd for 160 Years past, since it has been under the Dominion of the *Turkish* Emperors, who send thither a *Bassia* in the nature of a *Viceroy*. This great City was built Triangular, and tho' the Head of the lower *Egypt*, is not Peopled as formerly; nor such as some now pretend it to be consisting of 2400 Quarters or Wards, and as many *Mosques*; for the Plague which continually infests that Country, has left it void of Inhabitants; and tho' the Missioners and *French* Merchants told me, That as it now is, it contains five Millions of Souls, I will not be taken for their Voucher, for I never counted them, and the Reader may believe as he pleases; I shall only add, That this Report inflaming my Curiosity, I resolv'd to surround it, and desir'd the *French* Consul

to procure me a *Janizary*, that I might do it with more safety. The said Consul sending me the *Janizary* on *Saturday* 15 in the Morning, we mounted two Asses, and kept still close going round, only stepping aside in some Parts because of the Ruins. We left behind us the *Aqueducts*, and came to the *Castle*, which is commanded by a Hill East of it, whence it might soon be destroy'd by reason of the weakness of its Walls and Towers. For many Miles about in several Parts, are the Burying Places of the *Turks*, with *Moschs* in them, and Tombs for Persons of Note, rais'd on four Pillars, with a covering over after the manner of a *Capula*. We went about it in two Hours and a half, so that considering the Time, and the swiftness of those Asses, *Caire* in my Opinion may be about ten Miles in Compass. Now let the Judicious Reader make his own Computation, and consider whether that Circumference can contain five Millions of People, for I will only add that the Streets are very narrow, and 20 or 30 Persons live in a small House, as also that we do not include in this Compass *Bulach*, *Old Caire*, and the Suburbs.

The Houses of this Metropolis are not Embellish'd with Marble, or built with Free-Stone, but with Bricks ill burnt, and Mud without any Magnificence. Only two Gates of the City towards the East, which are shut up have some Ornament of Marble. In other respects it may be call'd a Magazine of the most valuable Commodities brought by the *Persians*, especially along the Canal of *Hali*, and of all things necessary for the support of human Life; Flesh, Fish, Fruit, Bread, and other things being there sold at a very low Rate; inso-much that for the value of a *Carline* of *Naples* (which is about Six Pence (a *Mau* may make a plentiful Entertainment.

To return to what we were saying; this Conceit of so many Millions has been produc'd by the Fame of the ancient and vast City of *Caire*, which they will persuade us consisted of five several Cities; yet not divided, the one beginning where the other ended, like the Links of a Chain, which are all distinct, but not divided. The Prophet *Isaiab*, Chap. 19. speaking of them, call'd one the City of the Sun, which was the chiefest, because there perhaps King *Pharaoh* resided. Of this there appears no other Footsteps and Remains but only an *Obelisk*, and some few Ruins, the very Name being lost, and this



*Gemelli.*  
1693. this now call'd *Masaria*. But there continues a Tradition, convey'd from the Christians to the *Turks* themselves, that the Blessed Virgin passing this way with her Infant, rested under a Tree, which stood there till our Times, but afterwards was remov'd, as well on account of the Christians Devotion, as for the Infidels sake; as I was told by the Father *Custos* of the House of the *Franciscans*, who shew'd me a great piece of the Wood of it in the Choir of their Church.

The second City was call'd *Aamis*, which was the same that *Pharaoh* gave to *Joseph* and his Family. The third was *Misrin*, built by *Mesrin* Son to *Ham*, and Grandson to *Noah*. The fourth was call'd *Bubrillon*, built in Honour of and nam'd by an Idol call'd *Abrillon*, whose Temple was near *Old Caire*, and at present there is a Christian Church in the place. The fifth was *Memphis*, destroy'd by the *Mahometans*, under the Emperor *Heraclius*, and afterwards rebuilt by the name of *Tesdar*, that is Victory, now *Old Caire*.

The New One, as we were saying has nothing of the Greatness or Magnificence of the Old (which according to the Traditions we have, consisted of the aforesaid Cities) being built, as is reported by *Kahara*, the Wife of a *Saracen* King, from whose Name it was afterwards corruptly call'd *Caire*, through the Ignorance of the People.

*Maillet* the French Consul, a Person of known Virtue, and Born in *Champagne*, several times offer'd me Lodging and Diet in his House, which at first I civilly refus'd; but he repeating it two or three times with Tokens of Affection: I accepted of it, and began that same *Saturday* to partake of his Kindness at a plentiful Table. In the Afternoon I saw a Dead Body carry'd by, on a high Beer, and several Priests went by Singing, and Women Howling. They say, That upon the like Occasions, those that are well to Pass kill Cows, Sheep and Lambs, and give the Flesh to the Poor. Nor should this seem strange, since so much Charity is practis'd there towards Birds, to whom at *Caire* a certain quantity of Corn is given daily upon a Tower, being a Legacy left then by a *Mahometan*.

*Sunday* 16. in the Morning, I went to see the Castle, which is in the highest part of the City, taking along with me the two French Fathers, the Jewish Interpreter, and the same *Janizary*. Being

all mounted on lusty Asses, we began to ride through the City, follow'd by the Insolent Scoffs of the *Arabs*, who now and then pull'd the Fathers by their Cloaks. After passing by several *Bazars* or Markets, we came into a wide Street, which is rare in *Caire*; and in which there were good Houses and *Moschs*. Then into a large Place twice as big as the breadth of the Castle of *Naples*, in which there were two great *Moschs*, about it good Shops, and Mountebanks in the middle. Two Gates at the end of this Place led into the Castle. We entred at that on the Right Hand, and passing through three others, saw a round high Wall, like the *Cupula* of a Church, but open at the top, where they told me was the *Divan*, or Tribunal where *Joseph* gave Audience; there is nothing else valuable but only 38 large and high Pillars of Marble. Going further up from this Court, through two other Porticos, I went into a plain Square, opposite to which there are two Gates, that lead into another Court, through which they go to the Tower, where the publick Treasure is kept for the Pay of 40000 *Janizaries*, that are ever to be in the Kingdom. They suffer no Man to go into it, nor into the Apartments of the *Aga* of the *Janizaries* and the *Bassa*, which are adjoining to the same Place. Having obtain'd leave, at the Price of a *Zecchine*, of the *Bassa*, to see *Joseph's* Well; we went out again at the two Gates, and going up a Way on the Left hand, in the highest Ground of the Castle Eastward, found four Oxen near the Well, which turning a Wheel, drew up the Water with Ropes of a vast length in Earthen Vessels. I went down with a Light, to the first Landing place on steps all cut out of the Rock; there I found four other Oxen, two whereof by turns work'd about the Engine to draw up the Water from the bottom of the Well into a Cistern, made for that purpose in that place, whence the Oxen above afterwards drew it up. I caus'd a lighted Torch to be thrown in, to observe the depth, and after it Cords to measure it. By what I could perceive, it has two even sides, but it is not quite square, two sides being of 22 Foot each, and the other two of 15. As for the depth, it is 141 Foot from the Mouth to that resting place, where the second Oxen were, and as many more to the Spring, being in all 282 Foot. The steps in many places are worn out, and in others clogg'd with Dirt, by the continual going

The Castle.

*Joseph's* Well.





Gemelli.  
1693.

ing up and down of Oxen; and for the most part they are uneven and broken, and therefore having begun to count them, I forbore continuing that trouble; however there may be about 154 steps down to the first resting place. From the second Oxen to the Spring, it is no wider than for the Wheel of the Engine, and measuring it, I found two sides of 12 Foot, and the other two of four. The most wonderful thing in this work, is its being cut out of a hard Rock, not only the Well, but the steps to go down to it, which in some places are 7 Foot in length, in others five. The Wall between the Stairs and the Well is six inches over, or little more. Some say, this Well was made by *Joseph the Sultan*; and their reason is, because there was no such City in the time of the other *Joseph*, whose it is generally believed. However it is, if the most received Opinion be true, it was dug about the year of the World 2298, after the Flood 642, and before the coming of Christ 1606, from which time to this year is 3399 years. Coming out of the Well, I went to divert my dimm'd sight by the River of the City, which is all discover'd from the Castle; and to enjoy the Noble Prospect of an infinite number of stately *Moschs*, and some Squares, and particularly a large Plain in the midst of the City, cover'd with the Waters of the *Xalic*.

The Castle we speak of, is a little City, about three or four Miles in compass; but as to the Fortification, there is none Modern, that can make any long Defence. The Towers are old, and the Walls ruin'd in many places, and without the necessary Cannon; so that a few Shot would lay it level. I should rather call it a heap of disorderly Houses, than a regular Fort.

At my return I met a Beer, on which was a green Covering, or Pall held up at the four corners by four *Mahometan* Priests, carrying as many Banners of the same colour in their hands. I asking the question, they told me that was the covering or Pall of a Tomb of one of their *Santones*, or religious Men, which they carry'd about to beg Alms.

Being desirous to see some Palace of any one of the great Men of the City, the Interpreter conducted me to that of *Ibrahim Beg*; but the Owner of it, who then commanded in the Island of *Candia*, being absent we saw only a part of it. His Steward receiv'd us courteously in the Gallery, giving us Coffee,

Vol. IV.

Sherbet, and Tobacco to Smoak. A Stair-case on the left hand of the Entrance, all cover'd with Vines, form'd in the Nature of *Pyramids*, led to this Gallery; where was the *Soffa*, cover'd with Mats and fine Carpets, as was that in a Room adjoining, and in both of them abundance of Cushions to sit down after the Eastern manner. I was willing to spend some time in the first Gallery, to enjoy the cool Air, and the Prospect of the Court and Garden, which was set out with Vines, Cipress, Palm, Orange, and other sorts of Trees. Next I saw some very good Rooms, curiously Painted and Gilt after the Fashion of the Country, with very fine *Persian* Carpets on the Ground. In the Court which was very large, there were beautiful Deer and wild Goats grazing.

Thence we went to see the Admirals Palace, who is Superintendent of the *Caravan of Mecca*, and was at that time abroad with it, which consisted of above 60000 Pilgrims an Employment; that yeilds about 100000 Crowns; for the Grand Seigneur allows 1000 *Zecchines*, a day whilst the Journey lasts. The Court before this Palace was larger than the other; in the midst of it, under a large white Mulberry Tree, was a *Soffa* to take the Air; there was also a white Goat of *Mecca*, beautiful enough to behold, with Hair as soft as Silk. The Goats of *Grand Caire* differ very much from them, for they have Ears like a Hound, and Hair like a Grey-hound; the *French* for their beauty carry them into *France*. Here I know not for what reason they would not allow us to see the Lodgings; and therefore not to keep the Consul in suspense, who expected me to Dinner, with all the Religious of the *French* House, I return'd home.

Monday 17th. I went betimes four Leagues from *Caire* Eastward, to see an Obelisk standing in the place call'd *la Materia*, in a Garden call'd the Garden of *Balsam*: Within it is a Fountain, at which there is a Tradition that the Blessed Virgin rested, when she came into *Egypt* with the Infant Jesus and *S. Joseph*; in the shade of a great Tree that was hard by, which was long preserv'd through Devotion, as was said above.

Not far from this Garden, stood formerly the Antient *Hierapolis*, or City of the Sun; the first the Divine Sun of Justice enlightned by his presence, when he entred *Egypt*. I saw some remains of its Antiquity, particularly the above-

men-



*Gemelli.*  
1693.  
mention'd *Obelisk*, which is three Foot and a half in breadth, and 58 in height, with *Hieroglyphicks* cut on all the four sides, as may appear by the following Cut.

See Cut number 2.

Returning a good pace on our Asses towards the City, I came in time to see the Entry of the *Aga Hamet*, who brought the *Bassa* a present of Boots, Saddle, and Breeches from the Grand Seignior, which denotes, that he is soon to depart, and another succeed him in the Government. The Ceremony was after this manner. The *Aga* was first receiv'd in a Garden without the City by the *Chiaga*, Lieutenant, or Deputy of the *Bassa*, who they said, was a crafty Knave; and having stay'd there a few days to furnish himself with Necessaries, he afterwards made his solemn Entry. Before him went little Drums and Trumpets, after the Country Fashion, beaten and sounded by Men on Horse-back, and 200 Soldiers well clad and mounted. Then follow'd two Persons, one of whom carry'd the Scimitar,

the other on the left, in a Bason cover'd with Silk, the Breeches of red Cloth, call'd Stuff, and the Boots; after them follow'd 100 *Janizaries* on foot, well clad in green and red Cloth, with their great wide Caps hanging down on their Backs, held up on the Fore-head by a Silver Plate a span long, curiously wrought. Lastly came the *Aga*, carrying the *Ottoman* Emperors Letter on his Breast, and the *Chiaga*, and after them two other Troops of Horse, like the first, clad in Red, and marching two and two, some of them having Clubs hanging on their Backs, cas'd at the end with Silver, to denote they were Officers. All this Company went to the Castle, where the *Bassa* expected them, and thus the Solemnity ended.

We return'd home through the Market-place of *Enaxin*, or of Brads, and other *Bazars*, where we saw rich Shops of several sorts of Rarities, brought thither to sell from several Parts of the World; and besides in the City, there are excellent Silk Weavers, who weave curious thin Silks for the use of the Country.

## CHAP. V.

*An Account of what the Fathers, James Albani, and Joseph, Mary of Jerusalem, Franciscans, and Missioners saw in their Travels in the upper Egypt, or Thebaida.*

IT being rare in *Europe* to meet with any good accounts of the Kingdoms and Countries of *Africk*, I thought it would be acceptable to the Reader, to give him a relation, which is not my own, but deliver'd by *F. James Albani*, and *F. Joseph Mary of Jerusalem*, born in *Palestine*, and bred up at *Rome*, both Missioners to *Grand Caire* in the upper *Egypt*, to whom full credit may be given, because they either saw what they write with their own Eyes, or else they learn'd it of the *Arabs*, of whose Language they are absolute Masters.

These Religious Men set out from *Grand Caire*, with the President of the *Hospitium*, or House of the *Franciscans*, on the 4th. of *May* 1691 towards *Bulac*, a City but two Miles from *Caire* Westward, which they say, was built by one *Polo*, there look'd upon as a God. It is about two Miles in length, one in

breadth, and contains above 50000 Souls; is seated on the River *Nile*, and there being nothing remarkable in it. the Fathers after a short stay, took Boat to prosecute their Voyage. About Nightfall, they came to a place call'd *Chercalsih*, or *Crisopolis*; but the Wind being fair they would not stop there, so that about break of day the 5th. they were near *Bussic*, a very antient City, formerly call'd *Olfos* in the *Coptan* Language, signifying a high place. At night they came to *Hermopolis*, which in the *Greek* imports the City of *Mercury*, antiently the greatest on the Borders of the lower *Thebaida*, where there are still many Ruins of former Buildings; at present the *Arabs* call it *Beniscuf*: *Abulfede* believes here stood a famous Temple of *Mercury*, embracing a Statue of *Venus*, and that it stood under the Government of the *Greeks*, but was

Voyage  
up the  
*Nile*.



*Gemelli.* was afterwards destroy'd by the *Mahometans*, when they came into *Egypt*.

1693. Advancing further, they came to the Village call'd *Habselnarab*: Near to it is the City *Bebnese*, built by an antient *Abagus*, or Philosopher, call'd *Bebnes*. Without it is a Well made by one *Rogoes*, a notable Magician, to discover the increase of *Nile*; it is now call'd *Bir-El-giernus*, that is, *Rogoes's Well*. The Natives believe, that on the 15th. of June at Night, there falls in that place

A notable Well.

a Dew, call'd *Bocraa*, or dropping, through the Intercession of *St. Michael* the Arch-angel, sent that Night by God to stir and bless the River; and they are the more confirm'd in this Opinion, because they see the River swell from that time forward: For this reason the *Copti* Christians throughout the Kingdom, celebrate the Feast of *St. Michael* with great Solemnity, in their way; the Ceremony is thus: On the 14th. at Night, their Bishops, and the *Cadi* of the Country go thither, and stop up, and seal the Well. The next Morning the Bishop having said Mass, they again go to open it, to measure the Water; and by the greater or less increase of it, they judge of what there will be in the *Nile*, and consequently of the plenty, or scarcity of the Year. This Magician we have spoke of; having done wonderful things through his Knowledge of the Secrets of Nature, was by the ignorant Multitude plac'd among the number of their Gods; erecting a Statue to him over the Well, which was adorn'd by the Natives for a considerable time.

*Siribis* City.

Being pass'd *Habsel-arab*, the Fathers came to very uncouth Mountains close to the Banks of *Nile*. At the Foot of one of these Mountains call'd *Giebal-ellheir*, that is, the Mountain of the Bird, are the Ruins of the City *Siribis*, which they will have to be built by the Magician *Siribio*; and that over one of its Gates, there was an Idol of that Name. They further affirm, That the Magician by his Art set up a Bird on the top of the Mountain, which in a fruitful Season turn'd his Head towards the River, and in time of scarcity towards the Desert; and that when any Invasion of Enemies was at hand, it turn'd towards that part from whence they were to come, clapping its Wings, and crying very loud to give the Citizens notice. At present there is a Monastery of *Copti* Monks in this place. Ten Miles from it is a City call'd *Minieleben-echafri n*, and many other Ruins of vast Cities, where the

*Minieleben Echafri n* City.

*Arabs* have their Dwellings, being places inaccessible to any but them.

On the 6th. of May, they came to *Antinopolis* City. *Sachiel-musa*, that is, *Moses's Well*, near which, towards the East-side of *Thebaida*, is *Antinopolis*; a most antient City, and of great Renown, as may appear by its Ruins, and vast Pillars; one of which is not much less than *Pompey's*. In this City, *Dioclesian* Martyr'd 160000 Christians; and *Nestorius* was confin'd to it, by order of the first Council of *Ephesus*.

Further on, they saw the City of *Mellani* City. *Mellani*, and went thence under an impenetrable Mountain, still along the River, where the Boats are in great danger, the Channel being shallow, and all Rock; and from thence forward they began to see Crocodils.

At Night they came to the Foot of the Mountain *Abafede*, or *Apud-finem*, as the *Romans* call'd it, once famous for being Inhabited by many great Magicians and Masters in the Art of *Negromancy*, who afterwards began to fail under the *Grecian* Monarchy, and had there placed Idols, particularly one they call'd *Oseos*. *Egypt* afterwards falling under the Dominion of the *Romans*, they call'd this Mountain *Apud-finem*, because of the Wonders and Prodigies seen on it, holding it in great Veneration. Some will have it that King *Pharaoh* brought the Magicians from this place to work their Wonders before *Moses*. The Christian Faith afterwards increasing, it began to be Inhabited by Holy Fathers and Hermits, living in several Caves dug out of the Rock, which inspire Dread and Devotion in the Minds of such as see them. The Latitude here, is 37 deg. 2 min.

Five Miles further Westward, is a *Marrofa-luk* City. City call'd *Marrofa-luk*, and on the Mountain that over-looks it, call'd the Green Mountain, stood the Monastery of *El-ma-harrach*; where there is a Tradition that the Blessed Virgin, her Son, and *S. Joseph* stay'd some time.

Thence they went to the City *Asiul*, *Asiul* City. formerly call'd *Bubastus*, seated on a vast high Mountain, antiently inhabited by Holy *Anchorites*, whose Caves are still to be seen. Near to it, there were two other Cities, the one call'd *Doronche*, of the name of a Goddess; the other *Sci-olb*, where there are still many Antiquities to be seen. Here the heat of the Sun is so violent, that the *Franks* have much difficulty to endure it, and the Journey is dangerous because of Thieves,

C 2

who

Vol. IV.



who every Night swim over to plunder the Boats.

*Gemelli.*  
1693.  
*Abritisch*  
City.  
Going still forwards they saw *Abritisch*, or the City of *Venus*, where there are many antient Structures ruin'd. The Bishop of this place subscrib'd to the Council of *Calcedon*.

*Giabel-essabare*  
Mountain.  
On the 11th. they came to *Giabel-essabare*, that is, the Mountain of Negromancers, formerly call'd *Isis*, of the Goddess of that Name, to whom the People of the middle *Thebaida* us'd to offer Green Leaves of several forts, and made sundry Sports after the *Egyptian* manner. The Statue of this Goddess of a prodigious bigness, is still to be seen half bury'd in the Ground, at the entrance into a Cave. The *Egyptians* believe, there is a great Treasure under it, which the Negromancers have often endeavour'd to dig up, but all in vain. On the top of this Mountain is a Cave, in which they say, there lives a Viper, as long as a Mans Arm, which winds it self about the Necks of the *Turks* that go to visit that place, which they esteem most Holy, without doing them any harm; and Persons of credit in other Cafes report, That it has been several times cut into 4 or 5 pieces, and always joyn'd again by means of the Devil. Let him that pleases believe it. Under this Mountain, the Fathers stood expos'd to intolerable heat till Evening, resting at Night, about the same place in danger of Thieves.

*Labta, Benavid, and Fau*  
Cities.  
The next day being the 12th. for want of Wind, they drew the Boat to the foot of another dreadful Mountain, under which is the City *Labta*. Ten Miles from it is another destroy'd, call'd *Benavid*, which in the *Copti* Language signifies, House of the Stars, because the Inhabitants worship'd the Stars. Proceeding further, they came to the antient City *Fau*, in the *Copti* Language call'd *Saupi*, and in the *Greek* *Crocodilopolis*, the vast Ruins testify its antient greatness.

*Achmim*  
and *Afolb*  
Cities.  
After many Sufferings and Hardships, the Fathers arriv'd at *Achmim*, by the *Greeks* call'd *Oxyringus*, a City of the middle *Thebaida*, antiently a Bishoprick, as may appear by the Acts of the Council of *Constantinople*, *Dorotheus* Bishop of this place subscribing to it. This was the second City built in *Egypt*, by the Philosopher *Hermes*, in the Eastern Desert. Thence they went to another call'd *Afolb* antient as the other; its Bishops *Colosfrinus* and *Andrew* having been present at the Council of *Calcedon*. Here

they found the Latitude to be 26 deg. 4 min. Ten Miles from this City the Fathers entred into a long Valley, where there are Caves, and little Monasteries on the Mountains, in which there once liv'd Holy, Religious Men, and which stir up Devotion in the most stony hearts. Here they stay'd two Days and a Night to visit them, and admire the narrow Dormitories and small Cells cut out of the hard Rock. Then they Travell'd 9 Miles along the Valley, and saw a Spring gush out of the solid Rock, which is call'd of the *Abissine* *Moses*, a Holy Hermitage in past Ages. Hence they advanc'd 18 Miles further a-foot, and found a Lake they call *Birchel-Elban*, surrounded with pleasant Trees, where there were also sundry Caves, Hermitages, and solitary Dwellings, some whereof run a quarter of a Mile into the Rock. The biggest Cave had a large Entrance, adorn'd with Crosses, and other devout Works. These Holy places draw Tears from the Faithful, seeing them serve as Receptacles to infamous filthy Men, addicted to Negromancy.

The Fathers returning to the Entrance of the Vale, prosecuted their Voyage, and after advancing some time Westward, arriv'd at the City *Mascia*, in former times call'd *Nalopolis*, where there are many antient Monasteries, and other Structures to be seen, now ruin'd. Going forwards they came to the City *Grege*, but before they arriv'd at it, they saw the Air cover'd with Locusts, as big as Wheat-ears, which come from *Nubia*, and do much harm in the Country. *Grege* is 10 Miles from the *Nile*, for which reason they were forced to Travel by Land on Camels. Here the Fathers were entertain'd in the House of a Christian, whither many other Christians of the Country came, very desirous to be instructed, and therefore propos'd several Doubts concerning the Catholick Rites, the *Roman* Church, and Pope. They remain'd very well pleas'd and convinced by the discreet answers of those Religious Men, who were well vers'd in their Language; saying, they had never hear'd such sound Doctrine; and not having seen such a Habit before, they were never satisfi'd with beholding it. *F. Joseph* being in a Christian's House, and *F. James* without, the Officers came to apprehend *F. James*, on account of the Tribute, *F. Joseph* reprov'd them, but it avail'd nothing; but when he was gone half way, he was rescu'd

*Nalopolis*  
and *Grege*  
Cities.





rescu'd by some Christians of the Coun-  
try.

1693. They continu'd at Grege till the 20th  
of May, and setting out on the 21st. the  
same Christian furnish'd them with all  
Necessaries for their Journey, and bore  
them company to the Boat; but finding  
it was gone, gave them two Asses, and  
made two of his Servants conduct them  
to Pardis, six Miles distant. At Pardis  
they took Boat, and setting forward  
with a fair Wind, came to the Town  
of Elbeliani, where the Master of the  
Vessel stay'd to mend it. Sailing thence  
and coming to the Island of the River,  
they saw a Crocodile 6 or 7 fathom long.  
At night they came to the Foot of wild  
Mountain, call'd Eltareg, where they  
were forced to continue that Night for  
want of Wind.

Difne  
Town.

The next Morning being the 22th.  
they advanced to the other little Island,  
where they found two other frightful  
Crocodils, and continuing their Voyage  
under dreadful Mountains altogether  
unpeopled, still met with more Crocodils.  
About Night-fall they stopp'd at a place,  
where one Joseph was head of the Arabs.  
Their Provision being quite spent, they  
stay'd the 23d. at a Town call'd Difne,  
and sent a Turk to buy a Medine, that is  
about six penniworth of Bread; but  
finding none they went away fasting.  
Some Arabs coming along the Road  
to plunder them, they put them to flight  
with their Shouts.

Dandara  
City.

Next they came to the antient City  
Dandara, being the third built by Her-  
mes the Philosopher, in which was a  
Magnificent Temple, with many Sta-  
tues, and stately Structures all ruin'd.  
Passing thence, they came to Caene or  
Bericon in the middle Thebaida, three  
Miles from whence the Egyptians had a  
Port on the Red Sea, now call'd Chosfir,  
whence in Pharaoh's time they traded to  
India, and part of Arabia. There they  
lay that Night in great fear, because  
three Robbers came swimming, and 15  
upon the Land to clap another Boat a-  
board theirs, but they kept them off as  
they had done the others with their  
shouts.

Caene, or  
Bericon.

Chosfir  
Port on  
the Red-  
Sea.

On the 24th. the Master of the Boat  
went about to gather his Passage Money,  
and the Fathers being still aboard, the  
Judge of the Country came with an Of-  
ficer, to enquire who they were, and  
what they went about. He seeing a dif-  
ferent sort of Garment, suspected they  
were Religious Men, and therefore would  
not be pacify'd, saying, they were Franks

that came as Spies, whilst their Sultan  
was making so great a slaughter of Turks.  
The Fathers pleaded the best they could;  
but the Judge still replying, that they  
were come in that habit to carry on their  
Deceits; order'd the Master of the Boat  
not to depart without his leave. A  
Christian of the Country, the rest of  
the Inhabitants being Mahometans, in-  
terpos'd with the Judge, saying, the  
Franks were come with him, to visit  
the Churches and Monasteries of the  
Christians, and that when they had per-  
form'd their Visitation, he himself would  
see them back. Yet this did not satisfie  
him, but he would needs send some Per-  
sons with the Fathers, to enquire into  
their proceedings. They seeing no o-  
ther way to rid themselves of this trou-  
ble, produced a Letter of recommenda-  
tion they had from the Secretary of the  
chief of the Arabs, which the Judge ha-  
ving read, and receiv'd six Medines, he was  
appeas'd, being able to get no more of  
the poor Fathers.

Six Miles further, entring into the <sup>Coptus Ci-</sup>  
upper Thebaida, is the antient City of ty.  
the Copti, from which not only the Na-  
tion of the Copti, but all Egypt took  
name. This Metropolis had a Trade  
in the Port afore-mention'd, and was  
seated in 26 deg. of Latitude, and 62 of  
Longitude; Strabo speaks of it thus.  
Next to the Temple of Venus, is that of  
Isis; and then those they call Typhonnia,  
and the Cut that runs to Coptus, a Town  
common to Arabians and Egyptians: Then  
follows the Isthmus running out into the Red  
Sea, near the City Berenice, which tho' it  
has no Port, yet has convenient places of  
Entertainment, because of the nearness of  
the Isthmus. Philadelphus is said to be  
the first that open'd this way with his Army,  
when it was destitute of Water, and erected  
Inns as well for foot Travellers as Camels;  
and that he did so, because it was difficult  
sailing on the Red Sea, more especially from  
the upper part of it. Experience has shown,  
that this was of great advantage; and now  
all the Indian, Arabian, and Ethiopian  
Commodities brought up the Arabian Gulph,  
are convey'd to Coptus, the mart of these  
Goods. Not far from Berenice, is the Port  
of Muris, which City has an Arsenal, or  
place for building of Ships. Not far from  
Coptus is the City of Apollo; so that there  
are two Cities, which shut up the Isthmus on  
both sides; but Coptus, and the Port of  
Muris are now the chief. The Bishop  
of this City of Coptus went to the Coun-  
cil of Ephesus, as may appear by its  
Acts.

Pro-



Gemelli.  
1693.  
Kno, or  
Cosborbir  
City.

Naccade  
City.

Luchferem  
City.

Proceeding on their way, the Boat was forc'd to stop till midnight for want of Wind, in a dismal uncouth place; but the Wind coming up fair again, they went on, arriving at last after many Sufferings at the City *Kno*, or *Cosborbir*, which they say was *Apollo's* City, and one of the greatest on the Banks of *Nile*. They could not go any further for want of Wind, and the Men trying to tow along the Boat with Ropes, were not able to endure the heat of the scorching Ground against their Feet; and therefore being half parch'd with the Sun they turn'd back to put in with much labour at Night to the City *Naccade*. The Fathers being come thither, went to the Bishop's House almost famish'd, having been some time without Provisions; and producing the Letter of Recommendation they had, directed to him, when they thought to make amends for their past Fasting, they had a wretched Supper of a little Cake, and fair Water to refresh them. Here many doubts were propos'd to them concerning our Holy Faith, to which they gave excellent Answers, the Bishops in those parts being very ignorant. The City is beautiful, antient, and abounding in Monasteries of *Copti* Christians.

On the 29th. having hired another Boat of a Christian, they set out for *Afsun*. The Wind blew so hard, that they were three times in danger of being cast away; and afterwards coming about against them, they lay still. Then towing the Boat with Ropes, they came on the 30th. to the City *Luchferem*. It was in past times call'd *Luchfo*, or light, and built on the East-side of the River, in honour of an Idol; but in process of time, another Idol being set up, it was call'd *Luchferem*, that is, two Lights, or else had the name for being compos'd of two Cities. In it, besides the remains of noble Structures, there are to be seen two Pyramids, each of them 40 Spans about, and all the four sides full of *Hieroglyphicks*. There are also, before the Gate of the Old City, two Idols of a prodigious bigness, of which all from the Shoulders upwards being broke down, what remains is 21 Spans high, the Shoulders are 12 Spans in breadth, the Ears 5 Spans long, and three and a half broad. These Statues might have remain'd whole still, had not the Natives gone about to break an Urn they had on their Heads, hoping to find some treasure in it. The Marble they are made of, is wonderful bright, and as it were a mixture of Gold

somewhat greenish, all of a piece. The Christians conducted the Fathers into the City, showing them 16 Pillars of several pieces, but 47 Spans about, and further on a great square building, compos'd of 100 Pillars, 37 Spans about. Hence they went to a Temple of Idols, cover'd with vast great Stones, each of which was thirty Spans long, nine in breadth, and six in depth.

Having seen this, they were conducted to the City *Chak*, now inhabited by *Arabs*. In the four principal Streets of it, they saw abundance of Idols in the shapes of Bucks, Goats, Camels, Lions, and Bulls. Going into the Old City, they found the Gate of it of an extraordinary height, and six Rods in breadth, all of large free stone, with *Hieroglyphicks* cover'd both within and without, and the Walls being fallen, this stood still. Further on they found a wonderful Theatre, encompassed with a Wall of vast great Stones curiously carv'd, 14 Spans thick, and of a proportionable height. In the midst of it is the place for the Shows, almost a Mile about; hemm'd in by six Rounds, making in all about 200 large Pillars, adorn'd with *Hieroglyphicks*, each of them 150 Foot high, with a Capital, on which five Persons may sit at their ease. In this Theatre some Christians and *Arabs* live; and because of its strength, the Robbers, when pursu'd by the *Bassa*, retire to it. In the same City is a Lake of green Salt Water, not colour'd by corruption, but as they will have it, by Art Magick; nor is it known whence it springs, or whither it flows; but it swells as the *Nile* grows small, and sinks as that River rises. What is more, dirty Linnen put into it immediately turns white: They say, it had formerly a hard Stone bottom in all parts, being a quarter of a Mile about.

At a small distance from the Lake, is another parcel of Pillars, which in times of Christianity was a Church, there being still the Pictures of Our Saviour, the Blessed Virgin and Angels, to be seen painted after the *Grecian* manner. They call this place *Sameavenegium*, that is, starry Heaven, because the Roof, through certain holes, artificially represents several Stars, and Signs of the Zodiack; at present it serves the *Arabs* for a Stable.

In another place, there are two Obelisks of a very great height; the Pedestal of one, of which is 76 Spans about, that of the other 40 half way bury'd



# Chap. V. of TURKEY.

23

*Gemelli.*  
1693.  
ry'd in the Ground; near to which there are two others of the same make and bigness, but thrown down by misfortunes of times. Not far off, there were two Idols of the finest Marble, 14 Spans high, on Columns of Porphyry, of a prodigious bigness, which led into a Street, cover'd with flat Stones, 36 Spans long, and 12 in breadth, all over cover'd with Hieroglyphicks, and supported by a Wall of Stones of an incredible bigness. As they were going to see another parcel of Pillars, they found in their way another very large Idol of curious Marble; and being come to the place they design'd, saw 150 Pillars 60 Spans about, but made of several pieces, and 100 Spans in height, besides the Capitals, on which 100 Persons might stand. At the entrance into this Structure, there were two Idols of the same Marble, little inferiour to Porphyry, and of such a monstrous bigness, that the very Foot was eight Spans long. A few paces further, is a Fort or Castle, where entering at a Gate, and going up stairs, they came into a great open place, with several Rooms about it, and as many more above them, in three other apartments. Close by this Castle is a way under Ground, that leads to the Nile and City *Hapalimus*, on the West side, now call'd *Medinalhabn*. In this City, there are also many remains of Temples and Theatres. There is also a small Lake that fills when the Nile increases, and sinks as it decreases, near to which, there are two Idols so big, that they are discernable 10 Miles off; one of them by the Country People is call'd *Samula*, and the other *Damula*.

*Armant*  
City.

The Fathers having taken some rest in the House of a Christian, set forward again with much fear of Robbers, and a violent heat of the Sun, and at two of the Clock in the Morning came to the City *Licophi*, now call'd *Armant*, renowned for many Temples, and great Structures, besides Statues and Columns. It was once the seat of a Bishop, and *Voluscianus* one of those Prelates, was at the Council of *Ephesus*; *S. Epiphanius* also makes mention of him. Opposite to this City, in a small Island made by the Nile, there are daily seen hundreds of Crocodils, of several forts.

*Democrat*  
City.

The next Morning at Sun-rising, they pass'd by the City *Democrat*, built by an ancient Philosopher of that name; at present it is call'd *Democrat*. On the

31st. they came to the Village of *Alfon*, three Miles distant from the River, on a Hill, where the Houses are meanly cover'd with Mats, for want of better Materials. Close by is the City of *Latona*, now call'd *Asne*, under the Tropick of *Cancer*; the Country about it is a continual Oven to *Europeans*, not us'd to such violent heats.

On the first of *June*, they went with a Letter from the Bishop of *Nacade*, to find a Christian, whose name was *Marc*, to carry them to see the Monastery built in the Plain four Miles from *S. Helena*, where *Dioclesian* put to Death 460000 Martyrs, and of the Invocation of the Holy Martyrs, now inhabited by some Religious Men; but they were dissuaded from going thither by a chief of the *Arabs*, call'd also *Marc*, because at that place, there was a Judge, who was an Enemy to *Franks*, and would either put them to Death, or Imprison them, and therefore not being able to perform their holy design, they resolv'd to return.

Having taken a small Boat that was out of repair, it soon fill'd with Water, which oblig'd them to return to the City. Going aboard again, being call'd by the Owner of the Vessel, who had repair'd it, they found the Men so weakened with fasting their *Ramadan* or Lent, that they could not row; wherefore *F. Joseph*, and one Waterman falling to the Oars, row'd the Boat to the aforementioned City *Armant*, 40 Miles from *Asfun*, forbearing to Row at Night through weariness. In the Morning *F. Joseph* fell to the Oar again, with the same Man, and they labour'd so hard, that at Noon they came to *Naccade*. There they went to visit the Bishop, but found him not at home; yet he returning with six *Copti* Priests, receiv'd them with his usual civility. After Supper, with the Bishop's leave, they propos'd several Questions about Religion; and tho' their ignorance was convinc'd by the Fathers Learning, yet they would not submit, but said they would the next day produce their *Arabick* Books, which did not avail them, for those very Books serv'd the more to confound them; yet they would never give over nothing talking to the purpose. After which, the good Fathers return'd down the same River to their *Hospitium*, or House at *Grand Caire*.

CHAP.





Gemelli.  
1693.

## CHAP. VI.

*The Description of the Pyramids of Egypt, and Mummies of the Desert.*

IT still remain'd, that I should see the Pyramids of Egypt, and Mummies of the Desert, which not being practicable without a good Company, for fear of the *Arabs*, I spoke to the Consul for him to find some method for me to go safely. He out of his goodness took the pains to speak to some *French*, who were preparing for the same Design with a good Guard, and so I made one of their Company.

We were to set out on Tuesday 18th. but found my eyes sore, having left the Window open at Night, by reason of the great heat; tho' I had been forewarn'd not to do so, because that Distemper is an inevitable consequence of it, and therefore in the Afternoon, I rode on an Ass, about the *Bazars* or Markets, and publick places of the City. In my way I met a Man about 40 years of Age, with a long Beard, and all naked from Head to Foot, whose hands all People ran to kiss, which my Ass-driver did with much Devotion. Some Women kiss'd the end of those parts, which in modesty ought to be cover'd, to render themselves fruitful. Asking who this was, they told me he was a great *Santone*.

The Pyramids.

We set out on Wednesday 19th. for *Bulac* or *Pulac* on twelve Asses. Being come thither we took Boat, there being no going by Land, because of the overflowing of *Nile*. We came before Noon to the *Pyramids*, or rather vast Mountains of Stones, the whole way being but 12 Miles. Curiosity prevail'd with me and some *French* Men, to go up to the top of the first of them, rather on our Knees than Feet, the first steps being four Foot high, and three in breadth, going equally all about, and growing narrower by degrees till the top. From the top of the Pyramid, is a prospect over a vast extent of Country, or rather a great Desert of Sand. Being come down with much trouble, we prepar'd to see that they call *Pharaoh's Tomb*, into which the entrance is through a hole half fill'd up with Sand. *F. Fulgentius de Tournes*, a Capucine, superior of their House at *Caire*, and an able Mathematician having drawn the Pyramid, and taken all the Dimensions, both within and without, I prevail'd with him to give it

me, as also that of the Well within, which *F. Lazarus* another Capucine, had taken 20 Years before, causing himself to be bound and let down with a Rope into that dark place, out of meer curiosity.

This great Pyramid, which is the nearest to *Caire* on the North-side, has 208 Stone steps of several heights, which are suppos'd to have been cover'd with Marble, since taken away for other Structures. Its Perpendicular height is 520 Foot, the length of every side 682, the flat on the top is made of 12 Stones, being 16 Foot 8 Inches Square; wherefore they say, that an Arrow shot by a strong Arm, would not fly beyond the Pyramid. There are 16 steps up to Entrance, which leads to a Square way, all of an equal bigness, that goes downwards. Its height is three Foot and a half, its breadth three Foot and a quarter, its length 76 Foot. At the end of it is a place about ten Foot wide, which leads into another way, of the same length of 76 Foot, which goes upwards at the end whereof there are two ways, the one upon a level, twelve paces in length, with a Room at the end, and the other that goes upwards, six Foot four Inches wide, and 162 long. At the end of this is a Gallery to go through into a Room 32 Foot in length, 16 in breadth, and 19 in height, the Roof whereof is plain, and made of 9 Stones. Within this Room, which is about the third part of the Pyramid, is an empty Sepulcher, said to be *Pharaoh's*, of white, red, and black Marble, seven Foot two Inches in length, three Foot and an Inch broad, and three Foot and three Inches high, a narrow space to contain so great a Monarch. By the measure of this Tomb, it appears, that Men now are as big as they were 3000 Years ago, and that we are no less than our Fore-fathers; as also that this Stone must be lay'd before the Structure was finished, because there is no way it could be carry'd in.

Between the two ways already mention'd, on the right hand, is a Wall, which appears on the Ground Perpendicularly from the *Horizon*, making the Figure of the *Hebrew Lamed*, in which down 77 Foot, there is a square Window,





*Gemelli.*  
1693. or inlet to a small Cavern, cut out of the soft Stone that runs Westward; the Pyramid being built on the hard Rock. Down 15 Foot in this Cavern, there is an oblique Way, cut in the same Stone, two Foot and four Inches in breadth, and two Foot and an half in height, descending 123 Foot, where it is stopp'd up with Sand and Stones. Those Barbarians say, there was a passage there under Ground, to the empty Head of an Idol, that stood not far from the Pyramid. As much of this Idol as remains, which is from the Shoulders upwards, is 26 Foot in length to the top of the Head, and from the Ear to the Chin 15. All this that has been said, will appear the more plainly, by the following Cut.

See Cut, Number III. Page. 10.

- A. The Entrance into the Pyramid, 3 Foot 6 Inches high, and 3 Foot 3 Inches wide.
- B. The Descent 76 Foot long.
- C. The space at the end of the Descent, 10 Foot wide
- D. The Ascent 76 Foot long.
- E. The Ascent 6 Foot, 4 Inches wide, 161 Foot long.
- F. The way between 8 and 10 Foot long.
- G. The empty Room.
- H. The Room 32 Foot long, 16 long, and 19 high.
- I. The empty Sepulcher, or Tomb, 7 Foot 2 Inches long, 3 Foot and an Inch broad, and 3 Foot 3 Inches deep.
- L. The way into the Room where the Tomb is, 8 or 10 Paces in length.
- M. The Plain on the top of the Pyramid, 16 Foot, 8 Inches square.
- N. The Perpendicular height being 520 Foot.
- O. The length of each side, being 682 Foot.
- P. The first depth of the Well being 77 Foot.
- Q. The second depth of the Well being 123 Foot.

The other Pyramid is equal in height to that already describ'd, and 200 Paces distant from it Westward; the square at bottom is somewhat less, and it is hard getting to the top of it, the Stones are so worn with Age; and the more because there are no Steps jetting out like the other. Near these two Pyramids is a third a fourth part less, seated on a rising Rock; each of its sides is twenty foot less than the first; and tho' it is

Vol. IV.

low, and smaller, it is all of a White Stone, and the breadth equal to the height.

In the Evening, all the good Company went away Northwards to the Pyramids of the Mummies, two hours Travel from the others, and at an equal Distance from *Grand Caire*, where we pass'd the Night pleasantly in Tents.

Thursday 20th, Whilst our Companions were bargaining with the *Arabs* to shew us the Mummies, *F. Fulgentius*, and I went into the first of the eleven Pyramids there are in that Place, whereof he taking the Dimensions both within and without, we found every side to be 643 Foot. The Entrance is on the North-side, about the fourth part of its height, but not in the middle of the Horizontal Line; for there are 316 Foot towards the East, and 327 towards the West. There is but one Way 3 Foot and a half wide, and 4 Foot high, always descending for 267 Foot; At the end of it is a Room 27 Foot and a half long, and 11 in breadth Arched. At the end of this Room is another way upon the Level, 3 Foot wide, and 9 and a half long, which leads into another Room 21 Foot long, and 11 broad, Vaulted like the other, and very lofty, with a square Window on the West-end, which is its utmost length, 24 Foot, 4 inches from the Floor. From this Room we went into another Way of a considerable breadth, as high as a Man, upon the level, and 13 foot 2 inches long; at the end whereof is a great Room, Arched after the same manner, 26 foot and 8 inches long, and 24 foot 1 inch broad. The Floor is of solid Rock, with some Points jetting out unequally, leaving some space in the middle.

There is no going up to another Pyramid near this, because there are no stops in the Stone outward, like those already Describ'd, measuring the bottom of it, we found each side to be 631 foot long.

The other nine Pyramids, excepting only one, which is equal to the last spoken of, are all little, or of a middle size, but differing in Workmanship; and some of them are very beautiful compos'd of Stones of a prodigious greatness, such as seem impossible to be placed there by art of Man.

The *Arabian* Historians and Writers are of Opinion, That these Pyramids were erected by a King of *Egypt*, whose Name was *Saurid*, 300 Years before the

Other Pyramids.

An Arabian Fable.

D Flood,



*Gemelli.*  
1693. Flood; and they intermix their Account with so many Fables, that they lose the little Truth they deliver. They write that this King having had a Vision, wherein it appear'd to him that the Earth was turn'd upside down, that Men lay stretch'd out with their Faces on the Earth, and that the Stars fell from the Firmament; he was much terrify'd, but kept it secret. After this he saw the Stars fall from Heaven in the shapes of Birds, which serv'd as Guides to Men to Conduct them into two great Mountains, by which they were afterwards crush'd, and the Stars darkned. Being frighted at this Vision, he brought together 130 Soothsayers, or Sorcerers, from all parts of Europe, among whom was the famous *Adimon*, and declaring his Dream to them, they guess'd and foretold, that there would happen a mighty Deluge, which would endanger drowning the Country of Egypt, and that this would come to pass within some Years. The King hearing this, order'd these Pyramids to be built, and some conveyances under Ground, to turn away the Water of Nile into the Province call'd *Alseida*, in the mean while conveying all his Wealth into the Pyramids. When they were finish'd, he caus'd them to be cover'd with rich Silk, and celebrated a great Feast, all his Subjects resorting to it. They tell many other ridiculous Fables, and among the rest the *Coptis* write a pleasant One in their Books, viz. that under the great Pyramid there is an Inscription of this Purport.

*King Saurid has built the Pyramids in time, &c. and has finish'd them in six Years. Whosoever comes after him, or believes himself as powerful as he, let him undertake to destroy them in 600 Years; tho' it is easier to pull down a Structure than to Erect it. He cover'd them with Silk, let another try to cover them with Moss.*

When the Caliph *Almamoun* came into Egypt, he had a curiosity to see what was shut up in these Pyramids; and tho' the thing was represented to him as impracticable, yet he with Fire and Vinegar, and Iron Tools, temper'd after a particular manner, over-came all difficulties. In short, the Entrance that is in the great Pyramid was his Work, and he found in a mighty thick Wall such a Treasure, as made good the expence of opening it. They also found a square Well, and Doors on all four sides, which led into certain Vaults, where there were dead Bodies wrapp'd

up in Clothes. Towards the top of the Pyramid, they fell upon a Stone, in which was the Statue of a Man, with a Gold Plate on his breast set with Jewels; a Sword of a great value, and on his Head a bright Carbuncle, as big as an Egg. Under the Stone there were Characters, which no Man in the World could explain to him. They add, that after *Almamoun* open'd that way, many went in, whereof some dy'd, and this is the fabulous account the Arabian Writers give.

The truth is, That these Pyramids were built to serve for Sepulchers or Tombs, as *Strabo* and *Diodorus* affirm; and is made out by the Tomb, to be seen in the biggest of them, whether it be of *Cheophs*, as *Herodotus* Writes, or of *Chemis*, as *Diodorus* affirms. And tho' *Aristotle* says, the Kings of Egypt undertook to raise these Structures to exercise their Tyranny; and *Pliny*, that they did it to shew their Power, and to keep their Subjects employ'd, that they might not think of revolting; Nevertheless the principal end of them was to serve as Sepulchers, and preserve the Bodies for a long time; for they believing, that the Souls would continue so long with the Bodies, as these continu'd entire, not to inform, but to keep them, as their first Habitations; they therefore us'd all possible means to preserve them from Corruption, by Embalming and Placing them in such famous Structures. Nor have they been altogether disappointed in their Design, since their Bodies have been found whole, and found after lying two or three thousand Years. Which mov'd *Plato*, who was 13 Years in Egypt to conclude from it that the Soul was Immortal.

Those good Kings built the Pyramids in that shape, that they might last the longer, because the tops doe not press the bottom, nor the Rain cannot Damage them; tho' some say they made them so, to represent the Figure of their Gods. Yet it is believ'd, and with some Reason, That the Egyptians from the top of them made their Astronomical Observations, and settled their Year.

The Steps of these Pyramids being made of solid Stone well Polish'd, *Diodorus* and *Herodotus* are of Opinion, they were cut in the Mountains of Arabia, which are beyond the Delta. *Herodotus* further believes, That such vast Stones were drawn up by Wooden Engines placed on the first Steps to raise them to the second. But *Diodorus* says, That such

The true Origin of the Pyramids.





*Gemelli.*  
1693. such Engines not being yet invented at that time, there was a mount of Earth raised of such a height as was requisite, and the Stones being drawn up to it, they were then let to run down towards the Structure; which can never be swallow'd by any Man that has not a *Greek* Fancy.

The  
Mummies.

We purposely forbore seeing the others that were further off, being above 30, scatter'd about the Desert, and were led by the *Arabs* to see the Wells or Sepulchres of the Mummies, which those covetous *Barbarians* keep conceal'd to get Money of the *Franks*. In short, they would have 20 pieces of Eight of us. Many are of Opinion, That the Mummies are found up in the Deserts of *Arabia*, and that they are the Bodies of People Stifled and Bury'd in the Sand when the South-Winds blow; but they are much deceiv'd, for they are no other but the Bodies of Ancient *Egyptians* Embalm'd. There are many of them found in Caves under Ground, near the Ruins of the ancient *Memphis*, which is all hollow above and below. The way into those Caverns is through square Wells, so contriv'd that a Man may go down putting his Feet into Holes on the opposite sides. These Wells are cut in a soft white Stone, found all about those Parts, after going a Fathom deep in Sand; nor are they all of a depth, but the shallowest of them is 42 Foot. At the bottom of them are square openings, and a Passage 10, or 15 Foot long, which leads into square Arch'd Rooms, each side of them being 15 or 20 Foot in length. By each of them is a Stone, on which the Embalm'd Bodies lie, some of them in Chests or Coffins of black Mulberry-Tree; others in Tombs cut out in the same Stone shap'd like a Man with his Arms stretch'd down by his sides. There is generally found under the Tongue of these Bodies a Plate of Gold, weighing about two Pistoles; and therefore the *Arabs* deface all the Mummies, which they afterwards sell to the *Mahometans*, and they to Christians, tho' sometimes they find nothing. Near the Heads of these Mummies there are Idols found, and the shapes of Birds at their Feet. On the Walls there are Hieroglyphicks cut, which perhaps serv'd for Epitaphs, and besides there are in each Room several Sepulchres of Children and others. Going down each of these Wells, there are several Rooms and Caves, having a Communication from one to another, without any other

Vol. IV.

Light but what comes from the Mouth of the Well.

Going down into one of these, we found a Room 20 Foot square, cut, as has been said before out of the Stone; about it were Tombs of Persons of Quality, and on the Floor, of Servants. There were in it but two ordinary Mummies, which I believe had been lately put in by the *Arabs* to get Money. They were swath'd like Children, and laid in two Chests of Mulberry-Tree very thick and solid, in which there were some little Figures in Chalk, kept by me to this Day, with a Skull Embalm'd that fell to my share; being good as they say for Wounds, and some Distempers.

The *Egyptians* Embalm'd these Bodies, I mean those of Persons of Note, ripping up their Bellies with a very sharp Stone; then taking out their Bowels, wash'd them with Wine, and drawing them through an Aromatick Powder, fill'd them with pure Myrrh, Cassia, and other Sweets, without Frankincense, and putting them again into the Body clos'd it up. This done, they laid the Body in Niter, and left it there 70 Days, after which they wash'd it again, and wrapp'd it close in Linnen Swaths, which they Anointed on the outside with a sort of Gum, which they made use of instead of Salt. These Bodies they plac'd in Chests or Coffins of black Mulberry-Tree, coarsly hew'd to the shape of Man, or Woman, as they are daily found in those Caves.

The way  
of Em-  
balming.

Being come out of the Well, the *Arabs* conducted us to see a Labyrinth, where the Ancients bury'd Birds. We went down a narrow Passage into a Room, out of which we crept on our Bellies through a Hole to certain ways where a Man may walk well enough upright. On both sides of them there are Urns, in which the Birds were bury'd; there is now nothing in them but a little Dust. These ways are cut out of a Nitrous Stone, and run several Miles, like a City under Ground, which they call a Labyrinth.

A Laby-  
rinth.

At Night we return'd to *Grand Caire*, my share for the Expence of this short Journey amounting to four Zecchines, that is 32 Shillings.

In the way between the Old *Caire* and the New, I saw the *Turkish* Soldiers Exercise in a curious Plain near the *Nile*. They were about 4000 Horse, who ran Two and Two, dextrously striking a piece of Palm-Tree with their Lances in their full Carrier. *Hali*, then *Bassa*

D 2

of





of *Caire*, came every Wednesday and Saturday to see them from a Balcony in a Great Man's House; besides the great resort of *Begs* and Princes, with their Subjects and Slaves well enough Clad. I was told that the 18 *Begs* that are at

*Caire* have many Lands, and about 500000 Crowns Revenue each of them, which they spend in supporting the *Mahometan* Pride and Arrogance with Magnificence, keeping hundreds of Horses in their Stables.

## C H A P. VII.

*The Author continues his Travels to Jerusalem.*

**M**onsieur Benovit Maillet having invited me to be at the Feasts of *S. Louis*, with all the French Merchants, would not have me depart upon any Account; but I having resolv'd to leave *Grand Caire*, return'd Thanks for all the Favours so generously bestow'd on me during my Stay there, and prepared to set forwards. Accordingly on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> I went to *Bulac*, which is but a Mile distant. By the way I met the Funeral of a *Turk* of some Note, with a great Turbant on his Coffin. Priests of the *Mosch* went before Singing, and his Women follow'd Weeping on Asses. Many of these Ceremonies ought to be perform'd in a Day to satisfy the Desires of the *Mahometans*; for they say, that it being dear Living in comparison of former Times, when they might buy 30 Eggs or 2 Pigeons, or a Fowl for a Penny, and therefore now a Plague were necessary that the Survivors might live the better.

I embark'd on the *Nile* before Noon for *Damiata*, and running down the Stream without Sails got into the Arm of the River that passes by that City. To say the Truth, I should not have made it my Business to go to this Place, had not the Ships bound for *Mecca* been gone three Weeks before from the Port of *Sues*; for I should have embark'd A-board them, to take a short cut to the *East-Indies*, as the Consul had Advis'd me, whereas the way I was now going was very tedious.

Saturday 22<sup>d</sup>, we continu'd our way with our Oars, because the Boat was small. This Arm of the River towards *Damiata* is not so full of Water as that of *Rosero*; which is the reason it often happens that the Boats by reason of the shallowness are stop'd for several Months near the Sea without being able to get out. There are Dwellings enough along the Banks of this Branch of the Ri-

ver, but not so large as those on the way to *Rosero*.

Sunday 23<sup>d</sup>, we Arriv'd at *Damiata* within an Hour after Day, having run 108 Miles; yet we stay'd in the Boat till the Custom-House was open'd, and were clear'd without that strictness us'd in *Italy*. I took up my Lodging in the House of a *Maronite*, Procurator to the Religious House at *Caire*, to whom I was recommended by the Father President, because at *Damiata* there were no Religious Men, nor Consul, or French Merchants.

*Damiata* is seated on the right side of the *Nile*, in 30 degrees of Latitude. It is ill Inhabited by reason of the unwholsomeness of the Air, and is not above half a Mile in length, and as much in breadth; yet because of the convenience of the Port, and Shipping off, it is much Resorted to, and has a vast Trade. Not very far from it Eastward on the top of Mount *Casius*, is the Tomb of *Pompey* repair'd and beautify'd by the Emperor *Adrian*. *Damiata* City.

I endeavour'd immediately to inform my self, whether there was any convenience of Vessels bound for *Jaffa*, or *Joppe*, and being told there was one ready at the Mouth of the River, I would not slip the Opportunity, laying in at once all the necessary Provision for the Voyage, and particularly of excellent dry'd Rows of Mulletts which are there extraordinary cheap. As I pass'd by the Custom-House, the *Tunizary* demand'd a *Zecchine* for my Permission to Imbark; but I telling him I was a French-Man he was forced to be satisfy'd with the third part of a Crown. This happen'd to me because there was no Consul, and the Jewish Interpreter would not speak one word to my Advantage, for fear of being Bastonado'd; and when I would have had him go four Miles down with me to the Vessel, to be my Interpreter





preter with the Master, he refus'd it, letting me go alone at the Discretion of the Water-Men whom I did not understand. These presented me to the Customer of *Hisba* on the right side of the River, who took no Duty of me, because I carry'd nothing but Provisions. But a Black of that Place, not willing to let slip so fair an opportunity of Cheating, seeing me alone, and without any Body to stand by me, stopp'd me, demanding a *Zecchine* for my Liberty to Pass, and tho' I answer'd it was not his Due, and that I would Write to the Consul at *Caire*, to complain to the *Bassa*; yet he continuing Positive in his Demands, bid me Pay first, and then Write at Pleasure; nor did he Desist, tho' I offer'd to go back to do as I said. Therefore not to let slip the opportunity, which once lost I must have stay'd some Months for another, (as happen'd to a Religious Man, the Mouth of the Harbour being choak'd up with Sand,) I turn'd again and gave the Black two Dutch Crowns.

The Water-Men would also have play'd their Knavish Part; for tho' we had before agreed what I was to give them, yet now they Demanded more, before they would take me into the Boat; holding me in Suspence when I was most eager to be gone, till they had got their Will; after which they carry'd me Aboard the great Bark which was then taking in that part of her Loading of Rice, Salt and Beans, which she had left behind to be able to get over the Flats of the River. Being come thither, the *Rais* or Master began to play his Part, asking twice as much for my Passage as was usual to Pay, which if I would not Pay, I might return to *Damiata*, which he knew was not in my Power. After much contending, I being sometimes silent because I did not understand, and other whiles Expressing my self by Signs, I comply'd with his Will, to avoid protracting the Dispute to no purpose. Truly a Christian that falls into the Hands of these *Barbarians*, is much to be pity'd, for they have not the least spark of Modesty or Compassion. They are never satisfy'd till they have empty'd a Man's Purse, giving one another Notice of the nature of the Prize; for which reason in these Countries, but particularly in *Europe* it is absolutely necessary to be stock'd with Patience, as well as with Money, which I endeavour'd to furnish my self with in order to visit the Holy Land.

Setting out about Evening that same *Sunday* 23d, we Sail'd all Night with a fair Wind, and Coasting along a sandy Desert Country on *Monday* 24th, with the same prosperous Gale arriv'd at *Jaffa* an Hour after Night-fall, having run 150 Miles. I had no other Disturbance by the way, but the continual Cries of those *Barbarians*, who are but little skill'd in the Art of Navigation; for tho' they have learn'd it of the Christians, and therefore use the same Sea Terms, yet they are not so Expert at it.

Having rode at Anchor all Night, we Landed with much Difficulty on *Tuesday* 25th, after paying the Master of the Vessel a *Zecchine* and a half for mine and my Man's Passage. I took my Lodging in a *Jew's* House who was an Interpreter, as all those do that go to the Holy Land, there being neither Friars, nor *French* in that little Place.

*Jaffon*, *Jaffa*, *Joppe*, *Zaffo*, or *Artuso*, *Jaffa* City, as others call it, is thought to have been built by *Japhet*, *Noah's* Son, before the Flood. It is seated in the Latitude of 32 Degrees, and is the Port all Pilgrims resort to, who go to visit the Holy Places at *Jerusalem*. Here it was the Materials for the Building of *Solomon's* Temple, brought from Mount *Libanus* were Landed; and here the Ancients feign that *Andromeda* was expos'd to be devour'd by the Sea-monster. Here it was *St. Peter* rais'd *Tabitha* to Life again, and in its Neighbourhood he saw the Sheet let down from Heaven with all sorts of Creatures in it, by which God gave him to understand, that he ought not to scruple admitting the Gentils to the Faith and Baptizing them. Whilst I was here expecting the Caravan of Camels, which comes from *Rama*, there rose such a violent Storm on the Sea, that no Vessel could come in for several Days, and those that were in the unsafe Harbour were all lost, particularly ours which took in its Loading in the Day, and on *Wednesday* Night, the Seamen going all to Sleep, without taking care first to secure her, she sunk with all the Goods, only those sleepy Beasts being sav'd by swimming Ashore.

The Camel Driver came betimes on *Wednesday* the 26th, to awake me in order to set out with a small Caravan of 30 Camels, but I chose to ride upon an Ass. Having Travell'd Ten Miles thro' a plain Country, part Untill'd and part Till'd and Planted with Olive-Trees, we came to *Rama* at break of Day, where I was receiv'd by the Superior of the





Gemelli.  
1693.

Rama  
Town.

the House of the *Caputins* of *Jerusalem*, who presently gave an Account of my Arrival to the Father Guardian of *Jerusalem*, that with his leave I might go to that City.

*Rama*, *Ramma*, *Ramle*, or *Ramola*, memorable for the Sepulchre of *Rachel*, and slaughter of her innocent Children, is a little open Town, Inhabited by *Arabs*, *Jews* and *Christians*. The Country about it is Fruitful, producing besides Wheat, good Fruit, as Grapes, Figs, Melons, and other Sorts. It was, as some believe the Country of *St. Joseph* of *Arimathea*, a secret Disciple of *Jesus Christ*.

Thursday 27th, I went with some Fathers three Miles off (I always mean *Italian Miles*) to visit the Place call'd *Lida*, where *St. George* was beheaded, being a Church serv'd by *Greeks*. As I return'd I was show'd a *Mosch*, which had been a Christian Church built by *St. Helena*, where under the high Altar 40 Martyrs are Bury'd, brought thither by her out of *Armenia*, but the *Arabs* do not allow us to go in. The Fathers also show'd me near the Church of their *Hospitium*, the House of *Nicodemus*, who took our Saviour down from the Cross.

Friday 28th, Leave being come from the Father Guardian of *Jerusalem*, I paid the Customer for *Casarre*, or Tribute, 14 *Albulchelb*, worth so many Ducats of *Naples*; and he according to his Duty furnishing Horses, I set out on Saturday 29th with some Fathers, and the *Cadi*, who was returning to *Jerusalem*. We Travell'd 12 Miles over the Plain, and 18 more over Mountains planted with Olive Trees; passing through the Village of the good Thief, so call'd because he was Born there, consisting of about 300 Houses, and seated on a Moun-

tain, with a ruin'd Castle. About half way we saw *Jeremy's Village*, where they show'd me a ruin'd Monastery of *Franciscans*, who had abandon'd it, because some of them had been kill'd by the *Arabs*. Not far from it is seen the Village where *St. John Baptist* was Born. Passing over the Bridge we came into the Valley of *Elah*, famous in Holy Writ for the Combat between *David* and the Giant *Goliath*, whilst *Saul's Army* look'd on from the Mountain next *Jerusalem*; and that of the *Philistians* towards *Rama*. Hereabouts I also saw the noted Castle of *Emaus* on a Hill, where the Building is still preserv'd standing (if it be the same) in which the two Disciples, after the Resurrection knew our Saviour in his breaking of Bread.

Being come to *Jerusalem* about the Evening, the Fathers directed me to go in at the Gate of *Damascus*, that the *Turks* might see me and receive the Tribute, because I had not been at *Jerusalem* before. I went thither accordingly with a Servant, and finding no Body at the Gate proceeded directly to the Monastery of *St. Saviour*, without any stop; but the Guardian fearing some Mishap, perswaded me to return and send some Christian to give Notice to the *Turks*, that they might come to the Place appointed to enter my Name, as they did. Then I went to the Monastery, where the Guardian receiv'd me very Courteously. The Structure of this Monastery is not large, nor lofty, but convenient. There are five small Altars in the little Church; three at the upper end, and two against the Pillars that support the Arch. The Floor is laid with good black and white Marble, but the main Point is, that the Church is decently and devoutly serv'd by 50 Fathers.

## CHAP. VIII.

### The Description of Jerusalem, and the Holy Places.

Jerusalem  
City.

**J**erusalem, formerly call'd *Salem*, *Solima*, and *Capitolina*, by the *Turks* *Curumobarech*, and *Leucost*, and by the Natives *Chutz*, and *Godtz*, is in 31 Degrees of Latitude. It was Built by *Melchisedec*, between two Mountains *Calvary* on the West, and *Olivet* on the East, between which and the City runs the Brook *Cedron*, that loses it self in the

dead Sea. The remains of so many noble Structures as are to be seen about this City are a sufficient Testimony of its ancient Splendor, tho' it be now quite alter'd from what it was, through the Vicissitude of Fortune, and terrible Havock made in it at several times by sundry Nations. What Cruelties were not executed in it by *Antiochus*, the Son of