

On both sides of this riuer we passed the most beautifull
 cuntry that euer mine eyes beheld: and whereas all that we had seene before was nothing but woods,
 prickles, bushes, and thornes, here we beheld plaines ^{A most beautifull cuntry.}
 of twenty miles in length, the grasse short and greene, and in
 diuers parts groues of trees by themselues, as if they had beene
 by all the arte and labour in the world so made of purpose: and
 still as we rowed, the deere came downe feeding by the waters
 side, as if they had beene vsed to a keepers call. Vpon this
 riuer there were great store of fowle, and of many sorts: we saw
 in it diuers sorts of strange fishes, and of maruellous bignes: but
 for lagartos it exceeded, for there were thousands of those vgly
 serpents; and the people call it for the abundance ^{The riuer of}
 of them, The riuer of Lagartos, in their language. I Lagartos, or
 had a Negro a very proper yoong fellow, who leaping ^{Crocodiles.}
 out of the galley to swim in the mouth of this riuer, was in all
 our sights taken and deuoured with one of those lagartos. In
 the meane while our companies in the gally thought we had bene
 all lost, (for wee promised to returne before night) and sent the
 Lions whelps shippes boat with captaine Whiddon to follow vs
 vp the riuer; but the next day, after we had rowed vp and downe
 some fourescore miles, we returned, and went on our way, vp the
 great riuer; and when we were euen at the last cast for want of
 victuals, captaine Gifford being before the galley and the rest of
 the boats, seeking out some place to land vpon the banks to
 make fire, espied foure canoas comming downe the riuer; and
 with no small ioy caused his men to trie the vttermost of their
 strengths, and after a while two of the foure gaue ouer, and
 ranne themselues ashore, euery man betaking himselfe to the
 fastnesse of the woods, the two other lesser got away, while he
 landed to lay hold on these: and so turned into some
 by-creeke, we knew not whither. Those canoas that ^{Two canoas taken.}
 were taken, were loaden with bread, and were bound
 for Margarita in the West Indies, which those Indians (called
 Arwacas) purposed to cary thither for exchange: but in the
 lesser there were three Spanyards, who hauing heard ^{Three Spanyards escaped.}
 of the defeat of their gouernour in Trinidad, and that
 we purposed to enter Guiana, came away in those
 canoas: one of them was a cauallero; as the captaine of the
 Arwacas after tolde vs, another a souldier, and the third a refiner.