

The P R E F A C E.

Pagod of the Island Salzete; not only describes, but gives all 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, Cochinchina, 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 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 compleat 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.

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