

named *St Augustine*<sup>13</sup> in a kingdom called *Vavalinta*, of which a *Buque* named *Diamacrinale* was king, who no sooner saw the Portuguese than he asked if these were some of the men from the other coast. This confirmed the stories they had formerly heard respecting the Portuguese, and they were here informed that the place at which they dwelt was only six days sail from that place. In September they got sight of *Cape Romain* or *St Mary* the most southern point of Madagascar, where they spent 40 days in stormy weather, and on *St Lukes* day, 18th October, they entered the port of that name in the kingdom of *Enseroe*. The natives said that there were white people who wore crosses, only at the distance of half a days journey, who had a large town, and *Randumana* the king came on board the caravel, and sent one of his subjects with a Portuguese to shew him where these white people dwelt, but the black ran away when only half way.

Among others of the natives who came to this place to trade with the Portuguese, was a king named *Bruto Chem-banga* with above 500 fighting men. His sons were almost white, with long hair, wearing gowns and breeches of cotton of several colours with silver buttons and bracelets and several ornaments of gold, set with pearls and coral. The territory of this king was named *Matacassi*, bordering on *Enseroe* to the west. He said that the Portuguese were all dead, who not far from that place had built a town of stone houses, where they worshipped the cross, on the foot or pedestal of which were unknown characters. He drew representations of all these things on the sand, and demanded a high reward for his intelligence. Some of his people wore crosses, and informed the Portuguese that there were two ships belonging to the Hollanders in port *St Lucia* or *Mangascape*. In a small island at this place there was found a square stone fort<sup>14</sup>, and at the foot of it the arms of Portugal were carved on a piece of marble, with this inscription

REX PORTUGALENSIS ☉ S.

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13 In lat 23° 30' or directly under the tropic of Capricorn, is a bay now called *St Augustine*. If that in the text, the latitude is erroneous a degree and a half.—E.

14 This is unintelligible as it stands in the text. It may possibly have been a square stone pedestal for one of the crosses of discovery, that used to be set up by the Portuguese navigators as marks of possession.—E.