

Act for a company trading to Africa and the Indies 26 June 1695

Our sovereign lord, taking into his consideration that by an act passed in this present parliament, entitled, act for encouraging of foreign trade, his majesty, for the improvement thereof did, with advice and consent of the estates of parliament, statute and declare that merchants, more or fewer, may contract and enter into such societies and companies for carrying on of trade, as to any subject of goods or merchandise, to whatsoever kingdoms, countries or parts of the world not being in war with his majesty, where trade is in use to be, or may be followed, and particularly beside the kingdoms and countries of Europe, to the East and West Indies, the Straights, and to trade in the Mediterranean, or upon the coast of Africa, or in the northern parts, or elsewhere as above; which societies and companies, being contracted and entered into, upon the terms and in the usual manner as such companies are set up, and in use in other parts, consistent always with the laws of this kingdom, his majesty, with consent foresaid, did allow and approve, giving and granting to them, and each of them, all powers, rights and privileges as to their persons and rules and orders that, by the laws, are given to companies allowed to be erected for manufactories. And his majesty, for their greater encouragement, did promise to give to these companies and each of them his letters patent, under the great seal, confirming to them the whole foresaid powers and privileges, with what other encouragement his majesty should judge needful, as the foresaid act of parliament at more length bears. And his majesty, understanding that several persons, as well foreigners as natives of this kingdom, are willing to engage themselves with great sums of money in an American, African and Indian trade to be exercised in and from this kingdom if enabled and encouraged thereinto by the concessions, powers and privileges, needful and usual in such cases, therefore, and in pursuance of the foresaid act of parliament, his majesty, with advice and consent of the said estates of parliament, does hereby make and constitute John [Hamilton], lord Belhaven, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston, lord justice clerk, Mr Francis Montgomery of Giffen, Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, Sir Robert Chiesley [of Bonnington], present provost of Edinburgh, John Swinton of that ilk, George Clark, late bailie of Edinburgh, Mr Robert Blackwood, and James Balfour, merchants in Edinburgh and John Corse, merchant in Glasgow, William Paterson, esquire, James Foulis, David Nairn, esquires, Thomas Deans, esquire, James Chiesley, John Smith, Thomas Coutts, Hugh Fraser, Joseph Cowan, Davis Ovedo and Walter Stewart, merchants in London, with such others as shall join with them within the space of twelve months after 1 August next, and all others whom the foresaid persons and those joined with them, or majority of them being assembled, shall admit and join into their joint stock and trade, who shall all be reputed, as if herein originally inserted, to be one body incorporated, and a free incorporation with perpetual succession, by the name of the Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies, providing always, likewise it is hereby in the first place provided, that of the fund or capital stock that shall be agreed to be advanced and employed by the foresaid undertakers and their co-partners the half at least shall be appointed and allotted for Scottish men within this kingdom, who shall enter and subscribe to the said company before 1 August 1696. And if it shall happen that Scotsmen living within this kingdom shall not, between now and the foresaid term, subscribe for and make up the equal half of the said fund or capital stock, then and in that case only, it shall be, and is hereby allowed to Scotsmen residing abroad, or to foreigners, to come in to subscribe and be assumed for the surplus of the said half, and not otherwise. Likewise, the quota of every man's part of the said stock whereupon he shall be capable to enter into the said company, whether he be native or foreigner, shall be for the least £100 sterling, and for

the highest or greatest £3,000 pound sterling, and no more directly nor indirectly in any sort, with power to the said company to have a common seal and to alter and renew the same at their pleasure, with advice always of the lyon king at arms. As also, to plead and sue, and be sued, and to purchase, acquire, possess and enjoy lordships, lands, tenements or other estates, real or personal, of whatsoever nature or quality and to dispose upon and alienate the same, or any part thereof at their pleasure, and that by transfers and assignment, made and entered in their books and records, without any other formality of law, providing always, that such shares as are first subscribed for by Scotsmen within this kingdom, shall not be alienable to any other than Scotsmen living within this kingdom, that the foresaid transfers and conveyances as to lands and other real estate (when made of these only and a part) be perfected according to the laws of this kingdom anent the conveyances of lands and real rights. With power likewise to the foresaid company, by subscription or otherwise as they shall think fit, for to raise a joint stock or capital fund of such a sum or sums of money, and under and subject to such rules, conditions and qualifications, as by the foresaid company, or majority of them when assembled, shall be limited and appointed to begin, carry on and support their intended trade of navigation, and whatever may contribute to the advancement thereof. And, it is hereby declared, that the said joint stock or capital fund, or any part thereof, or any estate, real or personal, ships, goods or other effects of and belonging to the said company, shall not be liable to any manner of confiscation, seizure, forfeiture, attachment, arrest or restraint, for and by reason of any embargo, breach of peace, letters of mark or reprisal, declaration of war with any foreign prince, potentate or state, or upon any other account or pretence whatsoever, but shall only be transferrable, assignable or alienable in such way and manner, and in such parts and portions, and under such restrictions, rules and conditions, as the said company shall by writing in and upon their books, records and registers directly and approved. And these transfers and assignments only, and no other, shall convey the right and property in and to the said joint stock and capital fund and effects thereof above-mentioned, or any part of the same, excepting always as is above-mentioned. And that the creditors of any particular member of the company may, by their real diligence, affect the share of the profit falling and pertaining to the debtor, without having any further right or power of the debtors' part and interest in the stock or capital fund, otherwise than is above-mentioned, and with this express provision, that whatever charges the company may be put to by the contending of any of their members deceased, or of their assignees, creditors or any other persons in their rights, the company shall have retention of their charges and expenses in the first place. And the books, records and registers of the said company, or authentic abstracts or extracts out of the same, are hereby declared to be good and sufficient for evidence in all courts of judicatory, and elsewhere. And his majesty, with advice foresaid, further statutes and declares that the said John, lord Belhaven, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston, lord justice clerk, Mr Francis Montgomery of Giffen, Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, Sir Robert Chiesley, present provost of Edinburgh, John Swinton of that ilk, George Clark, late bailie of Edinburgh, Mr Robert Blackwood, and James Balfour, merchants in Edinburgh, and John Corse, merchant in Glasgow, William Paterson, esquire, James Foulis and David Nairn, esquires, Thomas Deans, esquire, James Chiesley, John Smith, Thomas Coutts, Hugh Fraser, Joseph Cowan, Davis Ovedo and Walter Stewart, merchants in London, and others to be joined with or assumed by them, in manner above-mentioned, and their successors or majority of them assembled in the said company, shall and may in all time coming, by the plurality of votes, agree, make, constitute and ordain all such other rules, ordinances and constitutions as may be needful for the better government and improvement of their joint stock or capital fund, in all matters and things relating thereto. To which rules, ordinances and constitutions, all persons belonging to the said company, as well directors as members thereof, governors or other officers civil or military, or others whatsoever, shall be subject,

and hereby concluded; as also, to administer and take oaths of good faith, and others requisite to the management of the foresaid stock and company. And the said company is hereby empowered to equip, fit, set out, freight and navigate their own or hired ships in such manner as they shall think fit, and that for the space of ten years from the date hereof, notwithstanding of the act of parliament of 1661, entitled, act for encouraging of shipping and navigation, wherewith his majesty, with consent foresaid, dispenses for the said time only in favour of the said company, and that from any of the ports or places of this kingdom, or from any other ports or places in amity, or not in hostility with his majesty, in warlike or other manner, to any lands, islands, countries or places in Asia, Africa or America, and there to plant colonies, build cities, towns or forts, † in or upon the places not inhabited, or in or upon any other place, by consent of the natives or inhabitants thereof and not possessed by any European sovereign, potentate, prince or state, and to provide and furnish the foresaid places, cities, towns or forts, with magazines, ordinances, arms, weapons, ammunition and stores of war, and by force of arms to defend their trade and navigation, colonies, cities, towns, forts and plantations, and other effects whatsoever. As also, to make reprisals and to seek and take reparation of damage done by sea or by land, and to make and conclude treaties of peace and commerce with the sovereigns, princes, estates, rulers, governors or proprietors of the foresaid lands, islands, countries or places in Asia, Africa or America, providing always, such as it is hereby specially provided, that all ships employed by them shall return to this kingdom with their effects, under the pain of confiscation, forfeiture and seizure of the ship and goods, in case of breaking of bulk before their return, excepting the case of necessity for preserving the ship, company and loading only. And his majesty, with consent foresaid, does further statute and ordain that none of the lieges of this kingdom shall or may trade or navigate to any lands, islands, countries or places in Asia or Africa in any time hereafter, or in America, for and during the space of thirty-one years, to be counted from the passing of this present act, without license and permission in writing from the said company; certifying all such as shall do in the contrary hereof, that they shall forfeit and amit the third part of the ship or ships, and of the cargo or cargos therein employed, or the value thereof, the one half to his majesty as escheat, and the other half to the use and benefit of the said company, and for the effectual execution whereof it shall be lawful to the said company, or any employed by them, to seize the said ships and goods, in any place of Asia or Africa, or at sea upon the coasts of Asia or Africa, upon the transgression foresaid, by force of arms, and at their own hand, and that without the hazard of incurring any crime or delinquency whatsoever on account of the said seizure, or anything necessarily done in prosecution thereof, excepting always, and without prejudice to any of the subjects of this kingdom to trade and navigate during the said space to any part of America, where the colonies, plantations or possessions of the said company shall not be settled. And it is further hereby enacted that the said company shall have the free and absolute right and property only relieving and holding of his majesty and his successors in sovereignty, for the only acknowledgement of their allegiance and paying yearly a hogshead of tobacco, in name of blench duty, if required only, in and to all such lands, islands, colonies, cities, towns, forts and plantations, that they shall come to establish or possess in manner foresaid. As also, to all manner of treasures, wealth, riches, profits, mines, minerals, fishings, with the whole product and benefit thereof, as well under as above the ground, and as well in rivers and seas, as in the lands thereto belonging, or from or by reason of the same in any sort, together with the right of government and admiralty thereof. And that the said company may, by virtue hereof, grant and delegate such rights, properties, powers and immunities, and permit and allow such sort of trade, commerce and navigation into their plantations, colonies, cities, towns or places of their possession, as the said company from time to time shall judge fit and convenient; with power to them to impose and exact such customs and other duties, upon and from themselves, and others trading with

and coming to the said plantations, cities, towns, places and ports and harbours thereof, as the company shall think needful for the maintenance and other public uses of the same, holding always, and to hold the whole matter of his majesty, and his successors kings of Scotland, as sovereigns thereof, and paying only for the same their acknowledgement and allegiance, with a hogshead of tobacco yearly, in name of blench duty, if required, for all other duty, service, claim or demand whatsoever. With power and liberty to the said company to treat for and to procure and purchases such rights, liberties, privileges, exemptions and other grants as may be convenient for supporting, promoting and enlarging their trade and navigation from any foreign potentate or prince whatsoever in amity with his majesty, for which the general treaties of peace and commerce between his majesty and such potentates, princes or states shall serve for sufficient security, warrant and authority. And if contrary to the said rights, liberties, privileges, exemptions, grants or agreements, any of the ships, goods, merchandise, persons or other effects whatsoever belonging to the said company shall be stopped, detained, embezzled or away taken, or in any sort prejudiced or damnified, his majesty promises to interpose his authority to have restitution, reparation and satisfaction made for the damage done, and that upon the public charge, which his majesty shall cause disburse, and lay out for that effect. And further, it is hereby statute that all ships, vessels, merchandise, goods and other effects whatsoever belonging to the said company shall be free of all manner of restraints or prohibitions, and of all customs, taxes, cesses, supplies or other duties imposed, or to be imposed by act of parliament, or otherwise, for and during the space of twenty-one years, excepting always the whole duties of tobacco and sugar that are not of the growth of the plantations of the said company. And further, it is enacted that the said company, by commission under their common seal, or otherwise as they shall appoint, may make and constitute all and every their directors, governors and commanders in chief, and other officers civil or military, by sea, or by land. As likewise, that the said company may enlist, enroll, hire and retain all such persons subjects of this kingdom, or others whatsoever, as shall be willing and consent to enter in their service or pay, providing always that they uplift or levy none within this kingdom to be soldiers without leave and warrant first obtained from his majesty, or the lords of his privy council, over which directors, governors, commanders in chief or other officers civil or military, and others whatsoever in their service and pay, the company shall have the power, command and disposition both by sea and land. And it is further statute, that no officer civil or military, or other person whatsoever within this kingdom, shall impress, entertain, stop or detain any of the members, officers, servants or others whatsoever, of or belonging to the said company. And, in case the said company, their officers or agents, shall find or understand any of their members, officers, servants or others aforesaid, to be impressed, stopped or detained, they are hereby authorised and allowed to take hold of and release the foresaid person impressed or stopped in any part of this kingdom, either by land or water. And all magistrates and others of his majesty's officers civil and military, and all others, are hereby required in their respective stations to be aiding and assisting to the said company, under the pain of being liable to all the loss, damage and detriment of the said company, by reason of the foresaid persons their neglect. And further, that the said company, whole members, officers, servants or others belonging thereto, shall be free both in their persons, estates and goods, employed in the said stock and trade, from all manner of taxes, cesses, supplies, excises, quartering of soldiers, transient or local, or levying of soldiers, or other impositions whatsoever, and that for and during the space of twenty-one years. And lastly, all persons concerned or to be concerned in this company, are hereby declared to be free denizens of this kingdom, and that they, with all that shall settle to inhabit, or be born in any of the foresaid plantations, colonies, cities, towns, factories and other places that shall be purchased and possessed by the said company, shall be reputed as natives of this kingdom, and have the privileges thereof. And generally, without prejudice of the specialities foresaid,

his majesty, with consent foresaid, gives and grants to the said company all power, rights and privileges, as to their persons, rules, orders, estates, goods and effects whatsoever, that by the laws are given to companies allowed to be erected for manufactories, or that are usually given in any other civil kingdom or commonwealth, to any company there erected for trade and commerce. And for the better establishment and greater solemnity of this act and gift in favour of the said company, his majesty does further ordain letters patent to be expedited hereupon, containing the whole details, under the great seal of this kingdom, for doing whereof all at once this act shall be sufficient warrant both to the director and chancellor, or keeper of the great seal, as use is in like cases.

Act concerning the payment of the sums out of the equivalent to the African Company

25 March 1707

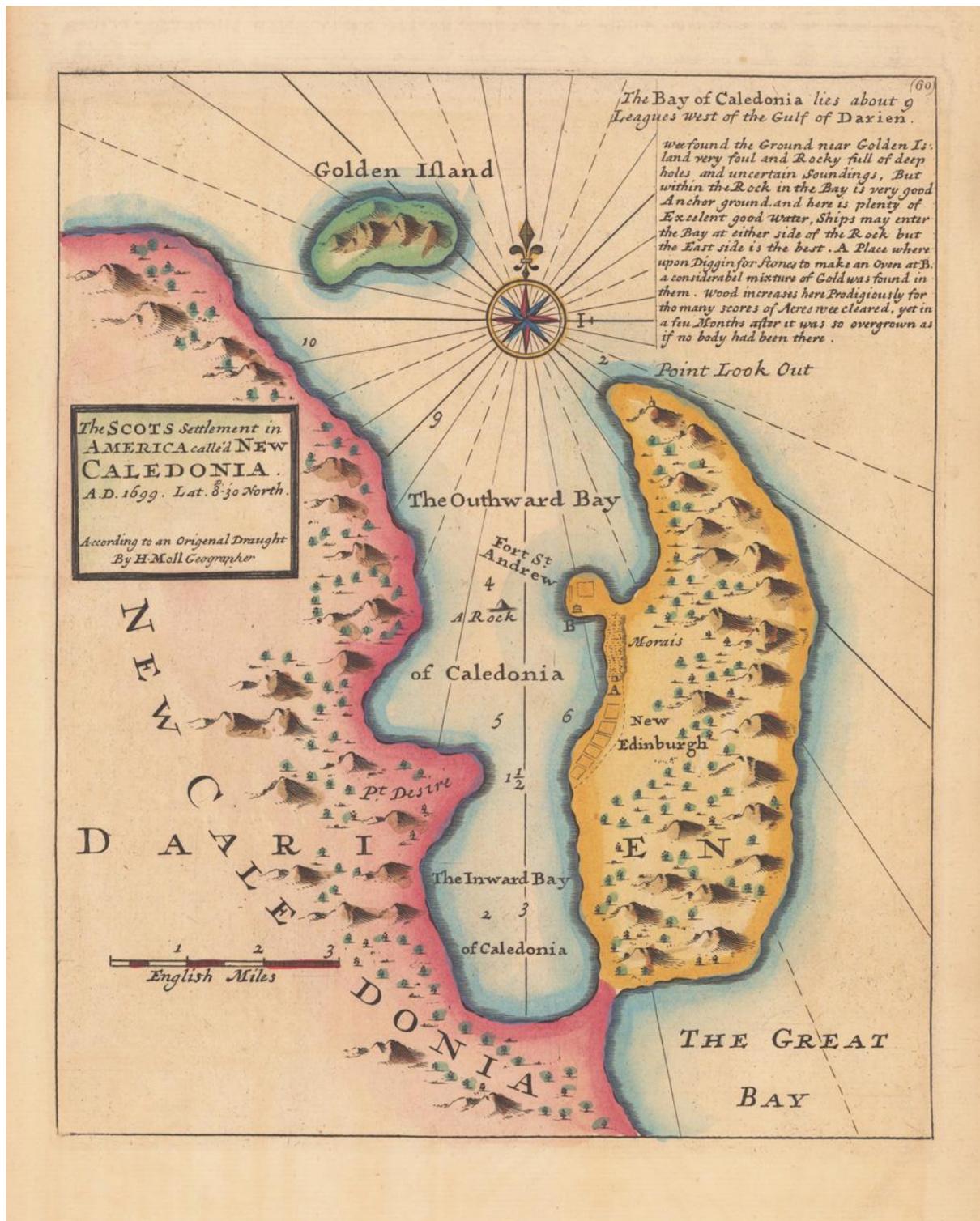
Our sovereign lady, considering that by the fifteenth article of the treaty of union of the two kingdoms of Scotland and England it is agreed that out of the sum of £398,085 10s sterling mentioned in the said article, after what consideration shall be found necessary to be had for any losses which private persons may sustain by reducing the coin of Scotland to the standard and value of the coin of England, in the next place the capital stock of the African and Indian Company of Scotland, advanced, together with the interest of the said capital stock after the rate of five [of the] pound per cent per annum from the respective times of the payment thereof, shall be paid, upon payment of which capital stock and interest it is agreed the said company will be dissolved and cease, and also that from the time of passing the act of parliament in England for raising the said sum of £398,085 10s the said company shall neither trade nor grant licence to trade, providing that if the said stock and interest shall not be paid in twelve months after the commencement of the union that then the said company may from thence forward trade or give licence to trade until the said whole capital stock and interest shall be paid. And also, considering that there may be diverse difficulties arising concerning the stating of the said capital stock and the particular shares and titles of the several proprietors and the execution competent for recovering the respective shares and interest conforming to the article, and her majesty being most desirous to prevent all mistakes and abuses which may hinder the ready and effectual application of the foresaid money, conforming to the said article, and dissolving the company in the terms thereof, therefore, and to the end that the shares and titles of the several proprietors may be the more distinctly constituted and the commissioners for disposing the equivalent may the more safely make payment, her majesty, with advice and consent of the estates of parliament, requires and ordains the directors and secretaries of the said African and Indian Company to frame a particular account or list of the stock and interest of the same from the respective times of the payment, excepting only that such as got allowance for the interest of the first instalment at paying in of the second instalment shall only have right to the interest from 1 August 1698 for the first instalment belonging to each proprietor or their assignees where transfers are marked on the said company's books; as also, another account of the debts due by the said company containing the particular creditors' names with interest due for such debts as bear interest, the sums in both accounts not exceeding the sum of £232,884 5s ²/₃d sterling at 1 May next. And both the said accounts are to make express mention at every article of the page and book belonging to the company from whence the said accounts have been taken. Likewise her majesty, with advice and consent foresaid, requires and ordains the present directors, at least five of them and their secretary who now is or whom they are hereby required to name for that effect, to draw up and perfect the foresaid two accounts or list in manner above-mentioned, and that they or five of them and their said secretary shall sign the said accounts respectively and deliver the same in to the lord clerk register between now and the foresaid 1 May next, certifying the said directors and their secretary that if they fail in punctual performance of the

aforesaid, or any part thereof, letters of horning shall be directed against them and their said secretary at the instance of the commissioners to be appointed by her majesty for the disposing of the equivalent, who are hereby authorised and empowered for that effect. And further that the respective proprietors and others having interest and the creditors of the said company contained in the foresaid accounts may be the more readily answered and paid, her majesty, with advice and consent foresaid, statutes and ordains that a certificate drawn out of the books of the said company bearing the names of the respective proprietors and transfers which concern any share marked in the books of the said company, or the names of the said creditors of the company and the payments advanced by the said proprietors, or the sums due by the said company to their creditor with the time of advancing the said payments or contracting the said debts, with the said interest due on the respective shares and debts at five [of the] pound per cent until 1 May next, and which certificate shall also express the pages and books of the said company from whence the same are taken, and shall be signed by the directors or three of them, or an extract of a part concerning any particular share or debt, under the hand of the lord clerk register or his deutes, furth of the said accounts appointed to be made up and delivered in to him in manner above set down, shall be separately authentic and probative and shall be a sufficient title to receive the respective shares or debts and interest due respectively thereof, and the discharges granted by persons having right to such certificates or extracts shall be a sufficient exoneration to the commissioners for disposing of the equivalent, which certificates and extracts are hereby ordained to be given furth gratis. And further where the shares of the proprietors or debts due to the creditors of the said company have been legally affected by diligence, the creditors using lawful diligence shall have such action against the commissioners of the equivalent for recovering the sums so affected as would have been competent to the parties themselves, whose shares or debts they do affect by virtue of this act, if they had insisted in their own names. And to the end the lieges may be certified when and where to receive their money, her majesty, with advice and consent foresaid, ordains that as soon as the foresaid sum of £398,085 10s mentioned in the above fifteenth article shall be paid in to the commissioners to be appointed by her majesty for disposing the equivalent, the same shall be notified to the privy council of this kingdom and thereupon a proclamation shall be issued out by the lords of privy council intimating the same to the lieges and requiring the proprietors and others having right to come and receive their shares, conforming to their respective titles, at Edinburgh where the said commissioners of the equivalent or a quorum of them are hereby appointed to reside until the said capital stock and interest be paid to the said proprietors and creditors of the said company. And her majesty, for the ends above-mentioned, with advice and consent foresaid, statutes and ordains that after the said proclamation the said commissioners to be appointed for disposing of the equivalent, by acceptance of their trust and office, shall be bound to make payment to the several proprietors and creditors contained in the foresaid lists and producing the foresaid extracts or these deriving right from them of the full shares and debts, with interest due respectively thereupon, at 1 May next, conforming to the accounts appointed to

be made and delivered in to the clerk register between then and the said day in manner above-expressed, and that without delay, loss or defalcation, declaring that it shall not be lawful for the said commissioners, their clerks, secretaries or cashiers by themselves or others, directly or indirectly, to acquire any shares or debts of the said company or to obtain any ease or gratification for payment to the parties respectively. And in case of not ready payment in manner foresaid, it is hereby statute and ordained that such diligence and execution shall follow at the instance of the respective proprietors or creditors or others deriving right from them for their respective sums, principal and interest, conforming to the foresaid accounts against the said commissioners of the equivalent and their cashiers, conjunctly and severally, as is competent against parties liable for foreign bills of exchange, and that upon production of the company's bonds to the creditors or upon production of the certificates granted by the directors or three of them, in manner above-expressed, or upon production of a particle extracted furth of the said accounts concerning the several shares and debts, with the title in the person at whose instance diligence is raised, and that no suspension or stop upon such charges shall be granted except upon consignment, and in case of consignment the money consigned shall be restored to the party having interest, without deduction of consignment money. And her majesty, in respect of the foresaid intimation, and that the commissioners of the equivalent do thereupon become bound in manner foresaid, hereby statutes, enacts and declares that upon issuing the proclamation of council above set down the said African and Indian Company shall cease and be dissolved and the said company, being thereby dissolved, her majesty, with advice and consent foresaid, hereby simply discharges the proprietors subscribers of the said books of the company, their heirs and all others whom it may concern, of all action, instance and execution on account of the sums subscribed for and not paid in together with the contracts, bonds or obligations whereby the said subscribers were bound to the company, with all acts of the directors calling for any payments of the subscription money not paid, and all diligence that has followed or may follow thereupon. And also forasmuch as the foresaid capital stock and interest and debts are appointed to be refunded in full satisfaction of all the company or any particular proprietor can pretend on account of the foresaid company stock management or interest thereof, therefore her majesty, with advice and consent foresaid, statutes and declares that the dead stock, whole debts and effects, actions and execution belonging to the said company in general, or to the proprietors in any way concerning the said company, shall belong to her majesty and her royal successors in the same manner as the same did belong to the said company and to the said proprietors and which are appointed to be brought in and made effectual by the said commissioners of the equivalent, and to be applied to the same ends and uses as the other sums mentioned in the said fifteenth article, with the burden, nevertheless, in the first place of £300 sterling hereby appointed to be paid out of the price of the house and pertinents lying in Edinburgh and other effects belonging to the said company to the said directors for their pains and attendance and to enable them to give rewards to servants and bestow other incident charges in making up and perfecting the said accounts, and which sum of £300

sterling is to be divided by the said directors as they shall see just, and such like with the burden in the next place of such sums as this parliament has appointed by deliverance or order to be paid out of the whole dead stock to gentlemen officers and others who went to Darien or their friends for their faithful services, and the debts due to James Montgomery, William Arbuckle, James Wetherspoon and William Thomson, extending to £258 4s 8d sterling. And the said directors, or at least three of them, are hereby strictly required to give in full and complete inventories of all debts and effects belonging to the company in general to the said commissioners of the equivalent at their first meeting, with certification that in case of failure letters of horning shall be directed at the instance of the said commissioners against the said directors for that effect, for doing whereof the said commissioners are hereby authorised.

The Scots settlement in America called New Caledonia. A.D. 1699. Lat. 8-30 North. According to an original draught by H. Moll G. 1729. - Map of the Bay of New Caledonia in Darién, Panama.



Title: The Scots Settlement in America called New Caledonia. A.D. 1699. Lat 8 n- 30 North. According to an Original Draught By H. Moll Geographer

Artist: Moll, Herman

Published: London, Th. Bowles and John Bowles

Date: 1736

Size: [25,2 x 21 cm]

Technic: Copper engraving / later hand color

Description: Copper engraving, hand colored in outline and wash. Decorative map of the Scottish settlement in North America. A detailed and fine map which shows the bay of Caledonia with Golden Island located near the gulf of Darien. The geographer Hermann Moll worked came originally from the Netherlands and worked in London in the beginning for Moses Pitt. Later he became one of the important map publishers in England. The atlases, which he published were widely well known. He engraved as well maps for other English publishers (John Seller, etc.) .

The History of Caledonia: or, the Scots Colony in Darien in the West Indies.

DARIEN COLONY

With an Account of the Manners of the Inhabitants, and Riches of the Countrey. By a Gentleman lately Arriv'd. 4to on half-sheets. 54 pp. Late 19th-century red quarter morocco, red cloth sides. London: printed, and Sold by John Nutt, 1699 Wing H2114 (L,O,LG,EN;CH,CN,LC,NC,Y). Without the final blank leaf. Bound with: [FOYER (Archibald)]. A Defence of the Scots Settlement At Darien. With an Answer to the Spanish Memorial against it. And Arguments to prove that it is the Interest of England to join with the Scots, and protect it. To which is added, A Description of the Country, and a particular Account of the Scots Colony. 8vo. [8], 86 pp. Edinburgh: Printed in the Year, 1699. Wing 2047A. The dedication to the King is signed "Philo Caledon". Bound with: [HODGES (James)]. A Defence of the Scots abdicating Darien: Including an Answer to the Defence of the Scots Settlement there. Authore Britanno sed Danensi. [20], 1-60, 145-168. [Edinburgh?]: Printed in the Year, 1700. Wing H2298. Title-page mounted on a guard, top edge strengthened; text browned. The dedication to directors of the Scots' African and Indian Company is signed "Phil. Scot." In 1695 the Scottish Parliament passed an Act which gave power and authority to a company to set up a trading station on the isthmus connecting South and Central America. The company was to be called the "Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies". It was provided with immunity from customs for twenty years and that any ships damaged or lost would be paid for at "His Majesties Charge". This, in practice, meant that the Company of Scotland would be able to undersell its competitors and simultaneously enjoy an implied form of insurance underwritten by the King, who was not best pleased at this presumption of the Scottish Parliament. Such provisions made the idea immensely popular and large sums were quickly raised from subscriptions. The project was overseen by the economist William Patterson, then at the height of his powers and fame. On the 28th July 1698 the pioneer settlers set sail from Leith, their departure cheered on by a population whose imagination had been fired by mercantile rivalry with and independence from English trade. The first few weeks went very well, few died on the voyage out, and an easily defensible spot with a good harbour was found. However the community was soon beset with sickness, anarchy and a severe shortage of supplies. In 1699 rules and ordinances were drawn up for the colony. These included a simple criminal code with trial by a jury of fifteen, a judicature, but no civil code. The problems were further exacerbated by fervent protestantism promulgated by the ministers appointed to look after the spiritual welfare of the colony. It was abandoned in June 1699 but by then further ships had been sent out and more left in August of that year. Soon afterwards the Spanish captured the site. Some of the Scottish settled in other lands (Nova Scotia inter alios) granted under the Charters of 1621 to Sir William Alexander and to Gordon of Lochinvar, and a few only made it back to Scotland. The project arose against a background of great economic uncertainty in Scotland. In 1681 the Scottish Mint had collapsed with the result that most trade was now being done in sterling. This led to substantial dependence by Scottish merchants on the goodwill and amenability of their wealthier and more powerful English brethren in London. In 1695 the Bank of Scotland was created by an Act of the Scottish Parliament expressly to manage the needs of commerce (unlike the Bank of England which had been founded to provide a war loan to the king) in Scotland and these Scottish financial interests in London. Even though the Bank of Scotland was.

THE
HISTORY
OF
CALEDONIA:
or, The
SCOTS COLONY
IN
DARIEN

In the West Indies.

With an Account of the
Manners of the Inhabitants
and Riches of the Countrey.

BY A GENTLEMAN LATELY ARRIV'D. LONDON:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY JOHN NUTT, NEAR STATIONERS-HALL. MDCXCIX.

[In the 'Darien Papers,' Dr Hill Burton states that this curious and scarce work, purporting to have been written by a gentleman lately arrived from the Scots Settlement in Caledonia, affords a detailed and distinct account of the adventure, as far as it had been conducted up to that time. The work, however, bears internal marks of being a made-up book, compiled partly from the Council's dispatches from the Colony to the Directors in Scotland; while the descriptions of the Darien Indians and of the nature of the country are borrowed largely (in some places word for word) from Lionel Wafer's 'New Voyage to America,' which was published earlier in the same year (1699).]

The History of Caledonia, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Erecting of the Company of SCOTLAND Trading to AFRICA and the INDIES.

THE SCOTS having observed the great Benefits arising to all Nations by Trade, which was not well understood, and put into Method, till about the latter end of the last Century, in this part of the World, and that, above all others, that of *Africa* and the *Indies* was the most Beneficial, have long ago projected to share in it with their Neighbours. But by the Policy of those who had already felt the Sweets of it, and who feared a Diminution of their Gain, they found, till of late Years, unsurmountable Difficulties.

But in the year 1688, they having, for the most part, Early appeared in the Revolution, and served his Present Majesty with great Zeal, they thought they might Justly Promise to themselves a suitable Return to so great Merits, And having managed their Business with great Dexterity, they found themselves not frustrated of their Expectation.

About Three years ago, under the Administration of the Earl of *Twidale*, who was mightily influenced in this Affair by Secretary *Johnson*, Son of the late Laird *Warreston*, an Act was touched by the Scepter for erecting a Company to be called the Company of *Scotland* Trading to *Africa* and the *Indies*, with great Immunities,—vizt. of being Custom-free for above Twenty Years; and that all Ships which should be taken or damaged by any other Nation, to be made Good at His Majesties charge. These Two Provisos in the Act, were a mighty Encouragement; For by the first they were enabl'd to undersel their Neighbours, and by the second they were always sure of His Majesties Protection, being obliged by the strongest Ties of Interest.

CHAPTER II.

Of the Opposition against it.

No sooner was the News of this Act of Parliament spread abroad, but it was opposed in *England* by all concerned in the *East India* Trade, who made a mighty noise against it. Some indeed contemned it, and making severe Reflections upon the poverty of *Scotland*, look'd upon it as a Chymerical Project; but the wiser sort here thought it might be of dangerous Consequence; making serious Reflections upon the great Priviledges granted the New Company, thought many, both here, in *Holland*

and other Nations, might easily be induced to joyn with them; and accordingly, many began, even here, to talk of Subscriptions, and remitting great Sums of Money; and more particularly the *Hamburgers*, had a Project of Subscribing an Hundred Thousand Pound But the Parliament sitting here about the time when the Discourse of this Great Affair was at the hottest, the Companies most concerned, made their application to them, and prevailed so much, that they quite dashed all Subscriptions here; and that they might, if possibly, quite Ruin the *Scottish* Project, they addressed His Majesty, That he would take all care, and use all possible Methods to suppress it; they obtained a Promise, That some Methods should be taken, and His Majesty making some Reflections upon what had passed, was pleased to express himself, *He had not been well served in Scotland*. But the Act being passed, and the whole Kingdom being engaged in it, it was looked upon as next to an impossibility, to have it Repealed. All that could be done, was to quite discourage all from Subscribing here, and to remonstrate to the *Hamburgers* the Injury their Joyning with the *Scots* would be to the *English* Trade. Accordingly, *Sir Paul Eycout*, His Majesty's Minister to that Republick, had orders to press it home: Upon which the *Hamburgers* put out a Declaration in Justification of themselves, and seemed resolv'd to pursue their Project. But upon Cooler Thoughts, &c, considering the mighty benefit they received from the *English* Trade, they having made it their Staple for Cloth, for the *North* Parts of *Europe*, to the mighty enriching of that Republick; and that it was not impossible, that they might remove the said Staple from thence to some other place, as formerly they had done from *Antwerp*, to the mighty prejudice of that City; and being warmly pressed by his Majesty's Minister, they at last resolved to desist, preferring certain Riches before uncertain Gain.

CHAPTER III.

Of the Progress of the Company.

THE SCOTS seeing that no Subscriptions from *England* were to be expected, the Frowns of the Parliament having quite discouraged all here; and that the *Hamburgers* were for preferring a present and certain Gain before Great Expectations, being resolved to Keep all measures with *England*, they resolved to stand upon their own bottom, and to shew to the World that they were not so Chymical as some gave out, they set themselves more warmly to carry the Project on, and accordingly subscribed £400,000, most of the Nobility and Gentry, and all the Cities and Royal Boroughs, unanimously concurring, giving the World a sufficient Proof that *Scotland* was neither so Poor, nor so Disjointed, as some people would have it believed. This great foundation being laid, the Superstructure went on apace: First, they bought them a Noble House in *Miln-Square* in *Edenborough*, to serve both for the *Offices* of the Company and a *Warehouse*. Then they began to build and buy Ships, both for Burthen and War, the chief of which are the *St Andrew*, the *Unicorn*, the *Caledonia*, the *Dolphin*, and the *Endeavour*. And here it's not improper to remark, that before this late Revolution they had no *Men of War* in *Scotland*, but now being partly necessitated by the Long War, and to carry on the designs of the Company, they have a pretty good Squadron, some of 60 Guns apiece and upwards.

After they had procured Ships sufficient for the present Designs of the Company, there was a great Debate among the Company, to what part of the *Indies* the Ships should be sent: and this part of the World was amused with various Rumours of the

Scots designs. But the first Project laid by *Mr Paterson*, about Ten Years ago, for settling a Colony in the *Isthmus of Darien* prevailed. Accordingly Three Stout Ships and Two Tenders were Equipped in the *Port of Leith* in the *Frith*, and all manner of Provision and Warlike Stores put on Board, with about 1200 Seamen and Soldiers, the Complement of the last being the most select Foot of *Scotland*; they say'd from the *Frith* with a prosperous Gale, and went round by the *Orcades*, and having a prosperous voyage, about the middle of November, the last year, 1698, arrived safe in the Bay of *Darien*, having lost few or none of their men.

As soon as they were arrived safe in the Bay, after their hearty Thanks to Almighty God for their safe arrival, they fell to sounding the Coasts, and found within a great Chain of Islands (among which is the Golden Island, by the *Spaniards* called *St Katherine*) a most large and capacious Port, where Ships of the greatest burthen may safely ride secure from wind and weather.

The Entrance of the Port, to which they have given the Name of *the Port of New St Andrew*, is not above Cannonshot over; so that it's very capable of being defended against the Attacks of any Enemies, they having already raised Platforms for that End. Upon the Low Neck of a Promontary within the Bay, which contains not above Thirty Acres of Land, they have begun to build them such Houses as so short a time can give them leave; which they have covered over with the Leaves of the Tree called *Plantain*, whose leaves are about a Foot and a half long: For the better Security of the New Fort, they have cut the *Isthmus* or Neck of Land on which it stands, for about 130 paces and let in the Sea. So that it has no Communication with the Land but by a Bridge; in this Fort they have already Mounted 50 Guns, and placed in it a Garrison of near 600 Men.

As soon as they had fortified themselves against all suddain surprises, they sent Deputies to treat with the *Indians*, of which you shall have a particular account after the General Description in the following Chapter.

CHAPTER IV.

A short Description of the Country of DAKIEN; Now called CALEDONIA.

THE Country of *Darien*, is one of the most Famous *Isthmuses* in the World. It's about a hundred and twenty Miles long, and three score broad. If it were possible to cut a Channel from Sea to Sea, capable of Shipping, it would facilitate the Navigation of the World two parts in three; but it's next to an impossibility, for it's almost a continued Chain of Mountains, of which some are as high as any of the Alps, especially those towards the *North Part*, which is only described in these Papers, none of the Colony being able to give so exact an Account of the *South* as yet.

The Valleys are watered with Rivers and Perpetual clear Springs, which are most pleasant to drink, being as soft as Milk and very Nourishing.

The Rivers that fall into the *North Sea*, because of their short course, are not Navigable; for they have their rise from the high Chain of Hills above, which reaches all along the *Isthmus*, within twenty Miles, and sometimes less to the Sea. From the

top of the Hills, is one of the most pleasant Prospects imaginable; for you have there a clear view of the *North Sea*, and the Various making of the Shore, together with the Adjacent *Islands*, which are called *Samballas*, between which, and the Continent runs a Channel about a League over, which makes all along the Coast numberless safe Harbours, and supplies the defects of the Rivers which are small, and commonly (because of the Violent Land Floods in the rainy Season, that carries down infinite Earth and Mud) are barred with flat Oozy Shoals.

These Hills are Clothed with tall Trees without any underwood, so that one may gallop conveniently among them, many Miles free from Sun and Rain, unless of a great continuance. The Air makes on the tops of the Trees a pleasant Melancholy Musick, so that one of the Colony considering the Coolness, Pleasant Murmuring of the Air, and the infinite beauty of a continued Natural Arbor, called them *the Shades of Love*.

Between these Hills and the Sea, are gentle declivities and a rich fat soyl full of all manner of Vegetables, among which are many not known to us in Europe. It's capable of any improvement, but towards the shore in many places, especially near the Mouths of Rivers are Morasses, in which grows a Tree which rises from several Roots, to which was given the Name of the *Stilt Tree*, because the Roots like Stilts are entangled one among another. It's a Tree of about a foot Diameter. It has red bark and may be good for dyeing and dressing of Leather. This Tree is very troublesome to Travellers, because it makes a continued thicket.

The whole Country is comprehended between the eight and tenth degree of *Northern Latitude*, and has its name from the River called *Darien*; whereby its *Northern Coast* is bounded to the *Bast*. It's more subject to Rain than any other Country in the same Latitude, because of its Mountainous Scituation between the *Atlantick* or *Northern Ocean*, and the *Pacifick* or *mare del Zur*. The Rains begin in *May*, and last four or five months, but are very gentle at first like *April* showers, but after are more Violent, insomuch, that sometimes they make a kind of a deluge, covering the ground in some places seven or eight Foot all on a suddain, and carrying down Trees with great Impetuosity, but those that are acquainted with the Country know how to avoid the danger. But those Rains, even in the wettest Months, are not so continued, but there are many fair Days, and sometimes a week together with small Thundershowers, and refreshing breezes of Air. The pleasant dry months are *December, January, February, March, and April*. The Sky is then very serene, and not so much as a cloud to be seen, and notwithstanding the warm scituation of the Climate, it's extremely Pleasant, everything having a fresh verdure and odour, the Air gently fanning the Inhabitants, so that the heat is so far from being troublesome that it's delectable.

But the Country tho' it be Rich and Fruitful on the surface, is yet far Richer in its Bowels, there being great Mines of Gold; for the Deputies were certainly informed that not above 12 Leagues from *New Edenborough*, was a great Mine of this precious Metal, on which were employed near 1,000 Blacks, and that in the River *Scanta Mena*, which is not above Thirteen Leagues from this Colony, and which falls into the *South Sea*, the *Spaniards* every year get Gold dust to the value of a Million.

And here it may not be unpleasant to the Reader, to give him an Account of the manner of getting the Gold dust, which is as follows: They have little Wooden Dishes

which they dip into the Water and take it up half-full of sand, and at every dipping they find some Gold mixed with the sand; they shake the sand and the Gold goes to the bottom, and the sand rises and goes over the brim of the Dish with the Water; then with a Loadstone they extract the Iron dust from it, and so it's clear of any other ore or filth. This can only be done in the fair Season, for the Rivers are too deep in the wet, and then is the Gold brought down by the impetuous deluge from the Mountains. It's easy to guess from this what vast Mines may in time be discovered, when Art and Industry are joyned together, and of what importance it will be to *Great Britain* to take all possible measures to preserve this Colony.

CHAPTER V.

Of the Reception of the Deputies of the Council by the DARIENS, and of their Manners and Customs.

THE Reader in the third Chapter, had mention of a League made between the Dariens and the Company. It will not be improper here, to give an Account of the reception of the Deputies and the manners of the *Indians*.

After the Colony had refreshed themselves ashore, and taken all possible precautions against any suddain surprise, by such fortifications as could be made in so short a time; It was agreed on by all, that it would add much to the Security of the enterprise, if they could enter into a League and strict bond of friendship with the *Indians*, whom they knew to be great Enemies of the *Spaniards*, who had endeavoured to extirpate them, but could never prevail, by reason of the invisible paths of the Country. Accordingly some Deputies were sent out, among whom was *Mr Paterson*, the chief Projector of the whole design. They found the *Indians* were, as it's before related, very tractable, and had certain intelligence that one of their great Kings (as they call their Chief Captains in their Language) was not far off upon the great ridge of the Mountains, and would be very glad to understand their design, and enter into any League against the *Spaniards* whom they mortally hated. They set out with a small train to give no occasion of Jealousie, and had several slight merchandises, as Beads, Linnen and Woolen Cloaths and other things, which they knew would be acceptable Presents to the wild *Indians*.

They found the Country, thro' which they pass'd, of an exceeding Rich soyl, but much covered with Wood, as above related, only here and there they met with some places which the *Indians* called in their Language *Savannahs*, where they plant their *Mari*, a kind of Corn something like wheat, upon little hillocks, at a little distance one from another. These *Savannahs* are not level, but consist of small Hills and Valleys, with pleasant spots of Wood intermixt, which serve both for pleasure and profit, of which more hereafter.

The *Indians* were so secure, that they saw several of them sleeping in Hammocks tied to two Trees, and had no other Covering or Canopy, but large Plantain Leaves, for they were told by their Priests, or rather Magicians (who went a Conjuring, which they call Panawing, as soon as our Fleet arrived), that the People newly arrived would be a great assistance against the *Spaniards* their Enemies, and would never molest them in any matters of Religion, but live in good Correspondence with them, if they failed not on their Part.

The Panawing is performed, as the Deputies were informed, with hideous yellings and shrieks, in which they imitate sometimes the hissing of Serpents; sometimes the croaking of Toads; sometimes the yelping of Foxes and barking of Dogs; to which they joyn the noise of several stones struck together, and of a sort of Drums made of Bamboes. They labour so hard and strain themselves so much, that they are all in a great sweat, and often fall into strange extasies and trances for a considerable time, and then renew their shrieks again, till the Oracle be given. The great Enemy of Mankind and Lover of Discord invited by such jarring Music, at last visibly appears, and audibly gives his Answer, which for the most part proves exactly true that he may the better delude these poor Creatures, who stand in great awe of him.

But to return where we left off, after they had made two easy days Journey, they arrived at the place where the King was, which was on the top of a very high Hill, which had a Noble Prospect towards the *North Sea*, as far as the Eye could reach, and was Crowned with a most Noble Grove of Stately Trees; some of which were eleven Foot Diameter, which bears a Cod about the bigness of a Nutmeg, full of short Wool, which when ripe is blown about by the wind, and is of small use, tho' it's something like Cotton.

As soon as the King had intelligence that the Deputies were near at hand, he sent a few Persons of the best Quality to Conduct them to his presence; these were attended with a sort of Musicians who play'd upon a kind of Pipes made of small hollow Bamboes and Reeds full of notches, with which they made a kind of whining noise, but nothing Musical to European Ears, and all the Company, to keep Consort, made a humming at the same time to themselves.

As they approached nearer, they were diverted with a Dance of 40 Men in a Ring, who stretched out their hands and laid them on one another's shoulders, moving gently sideways round in a Circle, wrigling themselves into a thousand ridiculous postures, something like the Highland Dances in *Scotland*. After they had Danced a pretty while, one of the Company jumped out of the Ring and Play'd several Antick Tricks, throwing and catching a Lance, bending back towards the ground and springing forward again with great Activity, to the no small admiration of the Deputies.

Most of them were six foot high, strait and clean limb'd, big-bon'd and full breasted; their faces were round, with short bottle noses; Eyes large and sparkling, white even Teeth.

Their hair was strait, long and black, which they wore down to the middle of their back or lower; hanging loose at its full length. They often scratched their heads, and when they found any lice, they would immediately put them in their Mouth and eat them; it's supposed they have not the use of Combs.

They had no beards, neither does any of the Nation wear any, but has it, as well as the hair in other parts, pulled up by the Roots by their Women, except the Eye-Brows and Eye-Lids; for which purpose, because they have not the use of small Pincers, they most dextrously make use of two sticks, between which they pinch the hair and pluck it up.

Their Colour, as is the rest of the Nation, was Orange Tawney; (for this description may serve for the whole Nation, and, therefore, the digression is the longer). They had newly anointed themselves with Oyl, which they make use of, to make their Bodies shine and to make the Skin smooth and supple, and hinder it from Parching; they had drawn upon their Skins many Figures of Birds, Fishes, and Trees, in many parts of their Bodies, but especially of their Faces; the Colours were red, yellow and blue. They are laid on with Pencils made of jagged and beaten sticks.

They were quite Naked, and had not so much as a Rag about them, only a piece of *Plantain Leaf*, which was rolled up into the Figure of an extinguisher, and but half covered their privities.

They had all a piece of an Oval thin Plate of Gold, which covered their Mouth from corner to corner, and hung dangling over their Lips, being fixed to the inner part of the Nose.

They had several Chains of Teeth, Shells, Beads, hanging from the Neck down upon the Breast and to the Pit of the Stomach; which was looked upon by them as the greatest piece of finery, and the more weighty and more numerous the Chains are, the more they value themselves upon their Dress.

But to put an end to this long, yet necessary Digression: When they were come to the top of the Hill, and almost in sight of the King, to shew how welcome they were to both Sexes, they were entertained by a Dance of Women, who behaved themselves with great modesty and activity, dancing in a Ring, as the Men did.

They had every one of them a piece of Cotton Cloath about their middle, tied behind with a Thread, hanging down to their Ankles; they were very plump and fat, well-shaped, and had lively brisk eyes, but something short, and a little too thick.

Their features were very regular, their Hair long and black, which was tied together with a string just behind the Head.

These women danced still before the Deputies, till they were arrived in the King's presence, whom they found seated under a Tree of an extraordinary bigness, upon a kind of a Throne made of several Logs of Wood, piled neatly one upon another, and covered with a sort of Party-coloured Cloth, which he had purchased of the Spaniards for a great Sum of Gold. He had on his Head a Diadem of Gold Plate, about ten inches broad, indented at the top, lined within with Network, made of small Canes, and a Eobe shaped something like a Frock, of Cotton, down to his heels, with a Fringe of the same Cotton above a Span long, with short wide open sleeves, reaching only to the middle of his Arms; his face was painted with Red, as if he designed War upon some of his Neighbours; he had a Plate of Gold hanging over his Mouth, of an Oval Figure, covering his mouth from corner to corner; he had hanging at each Ear a Pendant made of two large Plates of Gold, fastened to a Ring, the one hanging before to the Breast, and the other behind on the Shoulder: the Plates were about eight inches long, and shaped like a beast.

Those who attended him wore on their Heads a kind of Diadem made of Cane-work, indented and jagged at the top, wrought very fine, and well painted, set round at the top with long beautiful Feathers, in the form of a Crown.

They all wore several Chains of Teeth, hanging down from the Neck above a Foot. The Teeth were all indented and over-run, tallied and notched exactly with the other, which made them look like a solid piece of Bone.

The Deputies, after they had made a Low Obeysance to his Majesty, were conducted by the Master of Ceremonies, who is always a Principal Man, to some Seats made of Logs of Wood, covered with Cotton Cloth, just over against the King's Throne, but much lower. After they were seated, they were by the same Master of Ceremonies commanded to give an account of the Affairs they had to transact with his Majesty. Then *Mr Paterson*, the First of the Embassy, rose up, and after due reverence, made a short and pithy Speech; the substance of which was, *That they were come from the uttermost Coast of the World, being the Subjects of a Mighty Prince, to admire his Grandeur, to establish Traffick, and to make a strict League with him against all Enemies whatsoever.*

There was a most profound silence during the Speech, and it was observed that his Majesty smiled, and often twirled the Plate of Gold which covered his mouth, which was a sign that he was extremely pleased. But I cannot here omit one thing which happened just when the Speech was ended, which was no small cause of Laughter. A Drove of Monkeys came leaping up and down the Branches of the Trees, and making extraordinary squeaking, sometimes breaking the little Branches, and throwing them down among the people, and pissed among them, and hung down by one another's Tails in a Chain; and swinging in that manner till the lowermost catch'd hold of a Bough of another tree, and drew up the rest; and it's by this means that they pass from top to top of high trees, whose Branches are a little too far asunder for their leaping. The *Indians* looked upon this as a very good *Omen*, and interpreted it thus, *That as the Monkeys by this Stratagem were a mutual assistance one to another, so the Scots and Indians would be, and that all would end. in pleasure and profit.*

After this little Diversion was over, all was hushed again in a profound silence. Then, by his Majesties Order, a Noble *Indian* stood up, and made a Speech, the substance of which was, *that the bearded Men were welcome; that there should be nothing wanting that they could possibly assist them in; that a League should continue while Gold and Floods were in Darien (an Expression used there to signify Perpetuity), and that they might be assured of it the more, his Majesty would Swear it by his Teeth, and Touching of Lips with his Fingers.*

After this Speech was ended, the Deputies were ordered to withdraw, which they did, making a Profound Reverence to his Majesty. Then they were conducted to a pleasant cool place, at a little distance from the place of Audience; where they were entertained with a sort of Drink made of *Indian Mace*, which was very strong, but of a Sourish Taste, and is very windy.

The Deputies asked if they had any other sort of Drink? Upon which presently was brought in great Calabashes a milder Drink, called *Mislaio*, which is made of Ripe Plantains, which is not unpleasant to the Palate. After they had been treated in this place about an hour, a Message came from his Majesty to invite them to Dinner,

which was made ready under another huge Tree,—for Houses there are none; this being only a place for Summer's Diversion, where they fear no Rain or change of weather for some months.

They found the King Seated on a low Seat, with some few of the Nobility standing about him. After due reverence paid to him, they were commanded to sit down at a little distance from his Majesty, who was at the head of the Table which was made of Twigs most curiously wrought, and covered thick with *Plantain* Leaves, instead of Cloth and Napkins, and instead of Knives, there was a kind of a Dagger which they use in War, called a *Macheat*: In the middle of the Table was an Earthen Vessel full of Salt, which is very scarce in the inner Parts of the Country, and another of Pepper, which is very plentiful, and much used in Dressing all their Victuals.

The first course was of flesh meat, which was stewed in very small Pieces in a Pipkin, with Roots and Green *Plantains* and *Bonanos*, with a great deal of Pepper, which was stewed too much and poured out into Earthen Dishes; It relished extremely well, and perfumed the whole place.

The next course was for the most Part of the flesh of two sorts of Beasts, called by the *Indians* Peccary and Warree, which was broyled upon Grid-Irons made of Wood; it was served up without any sawce; but when it came to the Table, one of the waiters strew it all over with Salt and Pepper.

The third and last Course was of Fish, some boiled in Earthen Pipkins with Pepper and *Bonanos*, and some broyled upon the *Indian* Grate, called *Barbecues*.

After all, for a kind of Desert was served in dried *Plantains*, *Bonanos*, and a kind of a musk Fig with some Bastard Cinnamon, with which the Country abounds.

Every one had at his right hand, two or three Calabashes of several of the above-mentioned Liquors, to take and drink when he pleased without any Cups, and another of Curious Spring Water.

The King in Eating, dipt his two forefingers of the right hand bent hook-wise, and took up therewith out of the Dish as with a Spoon, as much as he could, stroking it across into his mouth. After every mouthful, he dipt his fingers into the water by his side, for Cleanliness and Coolness, for the meat he eat is excessive hot. He eat no bread with it, but at every three or four mouthfuls he dipt his finger in the salt and strok't over his tongue.

All Dinner-time he was entertained with Musick, Vocal and Instrumental, which seemed to be very diverting to him; tho' to the guests it seemed harsh and jarring. The subject of it was the great Achievements of himself and Ancestors, and concluded with a Song to welcome the guests.

After Dinner was over, the Deputies withdrew, and were Conducted to the place where they had refreshed themselves after the morning Audience.

CHAPTER VI.

Their Game and Manner of Hunting.

THEY had not been long there, when a Messenger came to them to ask them if they would be pleased to divert themselves with Hunting, for News was brought the King, that a great drove of Peccary was come down the Hills. This Peccary is a kind of a Wild Hog, very black with little short legs, yet runs swiftly. Its Navel is upon the back, and if upon the killing this beast the Navel is not cut away from the carcase within four hours at farthest, it taints all the flesh and makes it stink intollerably; but if it be taken away, it will keep well several days, and is well tasted and very Nourishing Meat. But to return to our discourse, all things were made ready, the Dogs were brought out, which are small ill-shaped Curs, with rough straggling hair and very slow, so that they rather serve for starting Game, than running it down. The Hunters were all on foot, here being no Horses, had every one his Bow and Arrows, his Lance, and a long knife which they call a *Macheat*. Being thus accoutred, they set forward, and the Women made frequent Prayers for their success. The King with the Deputies stood upon a Hill, where was an excellent Prospect, and where they saw the whole Hunting without scarce moving a step. With their Men and Dogs and some Nets they had (which are made of a sort of Grass that we called Silk Grass, of which strong thread is spun) they surrounded four or five of them, so that they could not easily escape. They seemed not to value the Dogs, which durst not attack them, but stood barking at them, as it were at Bay. But the Hunters from behind some shrubs, shot them with their Arrows, and they made away with several of them in their Bodies, and run very fast for a while, but the loss of Blood soon stopped their Career. Then they came in with their Dogs and killed them with their Lances in a trice; then they cut them into four quarters immediately, and raised a mighty shout, which was Answered by the King and the People about him; some Playing upon a kind of a Trumpet made of Bambo, and sounded in an unmusical strain the Death of the Peccary. As soon as the Peccarys were brought to the King, he made the Deputies a Present of two of them.

At Night they took leave of the King, and were conducted to the forementioned place of retirement, where were hung several large Hammocks made of Silk Grass, and tied from Tree to Tree. The Night was pleasant and refreshing, and everybody slept as well as if he had been in the best furnished Chamber, there was all round a mighty silence, and the pleasant murmuring of the wind in the tops of the Trees gently moved us to sleep; neither were we troubled with the least fly or insect, which are very troublesome in low swampy ground. But it's not here to be forgot, that a profer was made of some young Women to solace the Deputies, which was modestly refused. Everybody slept soundly till about Sun rising, when we were awaked by a noise of Panawers, of which enough has been said above.

CHAPTER VII.

Of their Return to Fort St Andrew.

AFTER they had dressed and refreshed themselves with some of the Peccary Barbecued, or broyled upon a Wooden Grate, they walked up and down those pleasant Groves, and passed two Days more with almost the same Entertainment and Ceremonies as at first. The third day Early in the Morning they had their Audience of

Conge; and several young Boys of the Chief Nobility were recommended to the Deputies to be Educated, and to learn the *Scottish* Language, who were kindly received by them; who were glad to have so many Pledges for the observation of the Treaty, and which was the greatest mark imaginable of their sincerity, they were reconducted down the Hills with almost the same Ceremonies and Dancings they had at their coming up. All was pleasant and gay, only the Mothers of the young boys made at first a mighty howling and beating of their Breasts; but they were comforted by their Husbands, who told them *It would only be for a while, and that the Deputies would send some Boys of their Nation to be trained in their stead.*

In our return we met with a sort of Wild Hog, called *Warree* by the *Indians*: It is very good Meat; it has little Ears, but very great Tusks, and the Hair or Bristles 'tis covered with are long and thick-Set. It's a fierce Creature, and dreads no beast whatsoever; but one of the Company quickly dispatched it with a Slug shot out of a Fowling Piece. The noise of the Shot roused at the same time a stately horned Buck, who made his escape.

We saw abundance of Rabbits, which are as large as Hares, which have no Tails, but little short Ears, with huge large long Claws. They have no Burroughs, but lodge in the Roots of Trees. Several of them were killed. They are Excellent Meat, and eat much moister than European Rabbits.

We met with whole Drovers of Monkeys, most of them black, some few white; some with large Beards, others Beardless, which were then fat, the Fruits being ripe, and are very agreeable meat.

We saw many other sorts of Animals, of which a further Account will be given in a particular Treatise, by an ingenious Gentleman who designs the Natural History of these parts. But we neither saw Bullock, Horse, Ass, Sheep, Goats, nor so much as a Cat, tho' they be much troubled with Rats and Mice, so that one may make their Fortunes by Cats, as *Whittington* did, who was twice or thrice Mayor of *London*, which confirms that common Tradition of his sudden acquiring of great Riches.

The Countrey we returned thro' was very Woody, only here and there were some pleasant Savanals, where grows great plenty of *Maiz*, which makes a substantial strong Bread, but it Eats something dryer and harsher than our Wheat. It produces a wonderful increase, above a Thousand for One. The Planting and Gathering of it is the Work of the Women. The men's Employment is only Hunting and Fishing.

There are infinite quantities of Cedar, very high and large. The Wood is very Red, of a curious Grain, and of a very fragrant smell. The only use they make of them is for Canoa's and Periago's; the first being much less than the second; which latter sometimes, tho' all of one Tree hollowed, will conveniently carry fifty or threescore men.

There are great store of Plantains which produce an excellent Fruit. The *Indians* set them in Rows, and they make very delightful Groves.

Bonano's grow here in great plenty: They are a sort of Plantains; the Fruit is short and thick, sweet and mealy; it eats excellently well raw, but the Plantain eats best when it's boiled.

But the Crown of all is that Delicious Food which we call the *Pine Apple*, shaped something like an Artichoak, as big as a man's head. It grows like a Crown on the top of a stalk, about the thickness of an ordinary man's arm, and a Foot and a half high. The Fruit is commonly 7 lbs. weight, inclosed with short prickly Leaves. This Fruit has no Kernal in it. 'Tis very juicy, and seems to taste of all the Delicious Fruits together. It ripens at all times of the Year, and is raised from new Plants. The Leaves of the Plant are broad, about a Foot long, and grow from the Root. Some of the Company would have called it *The Vegetable Manna*, which would have been no improper name; for it has a thousand Delights in its Taste, and may supply the Defects of all Sort of Fruits. Its Leaves serve for covering of Houses, and Bed-cloaths over the Hammocks. Two or three of them will defend one from the Sun and the Eain.

We saw Sugar-Canes in abundance; but the *Indians* know not how to make Sugar. They will carry them as they walk, under their Arms, and now and then take a piece of one of them and chew it, and suck out the juice.

Bastard Cinnamon Trees grow in most places, which bear a sort of a Cod something shorter than a Bean-Cod, but much thicker. It's thought if they were transplanted, the Bark might in time be little inferior to the fam'd Cinnamon of *Ceylon*.

There grows plentifully two sorts of Pepper, the one called *Bell-Pepper*, the other *Bird-Pepper*, which are both much used by the *Indians*. Both sorts grow on a shrubby Bush about a yard high. The *Bird-Pepper* has the smaller leaf, and is much more esteemed by the *Indians* and is capable of great improvements.

Bed Wood, fit for Dyers, is no less plentiful than the former. The Trees are commonly about 40 Foot high, about the thickness of ones Thigh. The *Indians* with this, and a kind of Earth, dye Cottons for their Hammocks. It makes a bright lively Red.

The Tobacco that grows here is not so strong as that in *Virginia*, which we attributed to their want of Skill in managing it; for they raise it onely from Seed, and never transplant it, as they do in all the Tobacco Countries. When it's cured, they strip it from the stalks, and laying 2 or 3 Leaves upon one another, they roll up all together sideways into a long Koll, leaving a little hollow; round this they roll other Leaves, closed hard, till it be as big as one's Wrist, and 2 or 3 foot long. They smoke it in Company thus: A Boy lights one end of the Koll, and burns it to a Coal, wetting the part next it, to keep it from wasting too fast. The end so lighted he puts into his mouth, and blows the smoak thro' the whole length of the Roll into everybody's Face in the Company. Then they sitting in their usual posture upon forms, make with their hands held hollow together, a kind of Funnel round their Mouths and Noses, they snuff it up greedily, and are extreamly pleased, and look on it as the greatest of Refreshments.

These were the most remarkable things we observed in our going and returning, besides great variety of Fowl, which deserves a more particular Account, which is left to the Author of the Natural History, here being no room for such large Accounts.

As soon as we were come within sight of *St Andrew's Fort*, we all fell down on our knees to give God most hearty thanks for our Success and happy Return, and were presently met by a great part of the Garrison. Never were people so caressed, tears of Joy standing in everybodys eyes- and there was great striving among them about getting the Education of the *Indian* Boys, who in a short time had most of them learned a great many words of our Language. So that it's not doubted but in a short time they will attain the Perfection of it, as some of our Little ones will do of theirs, who are speedily to be sent to remain with the *Indians*, according to the Agreement in the League, which it's hoped will prove as advantageous to *Scotland*, as that made between *Charlemain* and *King Achaius*.

CHAPTER VIII.

Of the Advantages of the scituation of Fort St Andrew, and the Interest of preserving it, and the Dangers thiat threaten it; With the Conclusion of the History.

THE *Spaniards*, whom it highly concerns, will do their utmost to disturb us, but unless they be assisted by some other Nation, we have no great Reason to fear them; for the daily confluence from all parts, of great shoals of People, the strength of the Scituation of *Fort St Andrew*, the League with the *Indians*, and the frequent Defiles will render it an Enterprise too difficult for them. They made some feeble attempts from *St Maria*, but we dispatching a few select Men, under the Command of *Copt Montgomery*, met them in a Plantain Walk, quickly dispersed them, took above 100 Prisoners, and among the rest their Chief Commander *Don Domingo de la Rada*, who is yet a prisoner at Port St Andrew, and will be continued there till we have a Good Account of the *Spaniards'* treatment of *Capt. Pinkarton*, who commanding the *Dolphin Tender*, was forced by distress of Weather under the Walls of *Carthagena*, and made Prisoner last February, a little before the above mentioned Skirmish happened.

As we grow stronger, we shall endeavour to procure a part in the *South Sea*, from whence it's not above 6 weeks Sail to *Japan* and some parts of *China*; so that, bating distress of weather, by bringing the Commoditys of those Countries over this narrow *Isthmus*, the Riches of those Kingdoms may in 4 or 5 months' time arrive in *Europe*.

What Interest *England* has in concurring to the Preservation of this Colony, it's needless to dispute, since they have Arts and Means to share in the Riches of *Scotland*. And all our Nobility and Gentry must, for their own Interest, attend the Court of *England* and consequently disperse their money among them. All these Circumstances concurring, makes us hope it will be one of the most thriving Colonies in the World, and that all Attempts against it will prove abortive, which ought to be the wish of all the Inhabitants of *Great Britain*.

FINIS.