The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is decorated with a marbled paper pattern featuring dark blue, brown, and cream-colored swirls. A dark, rectangular label is centered on the cover, containing the title and year in gold lettering. The spine of the book is visible on the left side, bound in a dark material.

PIRACY  
OF THE  
ADMIRAL  
TROWBRIDGE  
1808

Admiral Trowbridge



George Wood.

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1811.





*Mr. Sharp, chief of the Brig, Admiral Trowbridge; barbarously wounded, put in Irons, & Spiked to the Deck by Pirates.*

*London, Pub. by T. Tegg Jan. 23-1809.*

PIRATICAL SEIZURE  
OF THE BRIG  
**ADMIRAL TROWBRIDGE,**

BY PART OF HER CREW,  
While lying at Anchor off  
**THE ISLAND OF SOOLOO,**  
AUGUST 21, 1807,

COMMUNICATED BY  
CAPT. ALEXANDER WALLACE,  
INCLUDING THE  
MURDER OF MR. C. B. LLOYD,

AND THE  
NARROW ESCAPE  
OF  
**Mr. William Sharpe.**

ALSO,  
THE CAPTIVITY AND CRUEL TREATMENT

OF  
**M. DE BRISSON,**

On the Coast of Barbary.

---

LONDON:  
Printed for THOMAS TEGG, 111, Cheapside.

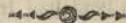
PRICE ONLY SIXPENCE.



## PIRATICAL SEIZURE

OF THE BRIG

## ADMIRAL TROWBRIDGE.



**T**HE extraordinary account of the piratical seizure of the brig Admiral Trowbridge, by part of her crew, displays such a scene of diabolical art and consummate wickedness, that we shall give the narrative as it was communicated by the chief officers belonging to the vessel, (Captain Alexander Wallace and Mr. Barnes) and published in "the Prince of Wales's Island Gazette," the 9th of January, 1808, concluding with appropriate reflections.

*Malacca, December 26th, 1807.*

" On the 21st of August last, the brig Admiral Trowbridge was lying at anchor off the island of Sooloo. At about five P. M. we were on board, when Captain Wallace gave his directions respecting the duty, and we returned to the shore about seven in the evening: at this time the crew appeared satisfied, and no apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the vessel. About midnight, we were alarmed by our people stationed at the house as a guard, with information that a gun had been fired on board, and that the brig was under weigh, standing out from the roads. We observed her some time, supposing they were shifting her birth; but finding she was drifting fast to the north-east part of the island, with little wind, we



conjectured the vessel was cut off, though at a loss to know by what means. As the people on shore were quiet, and no boats seen moving on the water, we concluded that the crew had overpowered the officers and seized the vessel.

“ Mr. Barnes then waited on the head daroo, and begged of him to order the prows after her; but at that hour it being impracticable, he promised to dispatch them as soon as they were ready.

“ In the morning, the wind having been light and unfavourable for clearing the island, we waited on the sultan, and begged he would send prows off immediately; and, in order to hasten their dispatch, offered a reward of 5,000 Spanish dollars to those who might retake the vessel. He consulted with some of the principal people, and desired us to go to the head daroo, who would give orders respecting the prows. On seeing him, we were informed, that a boat had left the brig with four men, and Captain Wallace was so persuaded of the truth of this report, that he armed himself, and embarked in a small boat with some Sooloonese and a seacunny, determined to get on board if possible, under an idea, that if the ringleaders had left her, the lascars would assist him against any others who might be concerned in the mutiny.

“ He neared the brig sufficiently to hear the people working, before he found the report untrue; and then received the discharge of six guns and swivels from the stern, on firing of which, the natives jumped into the water, excepting one man, who stood up and fired two muskets at the brig: he then returned, and reached the town in safety, between four and five o'clock that afternoon, having left her, with all sail set, standing to the eastward.

“ In the evening the daroo left the town, with three large prows well manned and armed, accompanied by his chosen slaves; it then being calm, and the advantage of rowing, we had great hopes of his coming up with the vessel.

“ Between one and two o'clock in the morning of the 3d, we were much surprised with the appearance of Mr. William Sharpe, the chief officer, covered with blood, and severely wounded; he had been sent away from the brig the preceding evening, with two seacunnies and three others not concerned in the mutiny, and from them we learned the following particulars:

“ Mr. Sharpe stated, that he retired to his cabin about 9, P. M. on the 21st, and left Mr. C. B. Lloyd, the second officer in charge of the deck, from eight to twelve, and had not the

least apprehension of danger from the crew, knowing of no dissatisfaction. That, to the best of his knowledge, it was between eleven and twelve, when he was alarmed by some cries, and a noise like the clashing of swords; on which he ran to the steerage, and looked up the hatchway, when one of the people made a stab at him with a boarding pike; he returned to his cabin for fire arms, and a Manilla seacunny and a Malay lascar rushed down with cutlasses, on whom he discharged a pistol, and wounded the seacunny in the arm. The report of the pistol deterred others from coming down for some time, till a seapoy, stationed below as a guard, seized him round the waist, and called to others for assistance; in this interval Mr. Sharpe called on Mr. Lloyd, but received no answer, for, alas! Mr. Lloyd was no more. Shortly after, many others came down, and he was overpowered, after defending himself to the utmost. In the tumult, he received a severe cut on the neck, which, with many other cuts and stabs, occasioned a loss of blood, so as to render him unable to stand, and the villains then supposed he was murdered. Finding, however, that he was not dead, they extended their mercy so far as to bind his hands behind, and lashed him to a standing cot in his cabin. Shortly after, he heard a gun fired, and the noise of bending sails, in which the serang appeared very active, for his voice was heard repeatedly cheering the people. Mr. Sharpe knows nothing more of their proceedings till about eight o'clock in the morning, when he was removed from the cot, and placed in irons, spiked to the deck. About six in the evening, they came to a resolution to send him on shore in one of the brig's boats, and five others, as before described.

“ The two seacunnies who aneded with Mr. Sharpe, state, that on the night of the 21st, they were sleeping near the capstan, and were awake by some cries and a bustling on deck, on which one of them ran forward and got on the forestay, supposing the shore people had boarded the vessel, and he there saw a Malay lascar cut the cables: the other seacunny saw the Malay lascars on the quarter-deck, armed with cutlasses; Mr. Lloyd lay on the deck; he attempted to raise him, and found him bloody; this seacunny was ordered forward immediately, and with the other was placed below, and the hatch put over them, where they were kept till about three o'clock in the morning, and were then ordered up, with a promise that their lives should be spared, if they assisted in working the brig. Mr. Lloyd was then found dead, and the gunner lying with many



wounds; on his shewing some signs of life, one of the lascars killed him with a crow bar. At sun-rise, their bodies were thrown over board.

"On the 23d, 24th, and 25th of the month, numbers of prows were going in search of the brig, and we expected they would have brought her in (for the weather had been uncommonly calm,) until the head daroo returning, informed us, that he had neared the brig several times; but whenever it blew, she always got off, and that he could not get close enough to board.

"It was generally supposed, that they had proceeded to the Spanish settlement of Soomboangan, till the other prows came in; we were then told that the brig had gone towards Monada, adding, that had she gone to Soomboangan, they would have brought her away.

"We were now preparing to leave Sooloo for Manilla, by help of a prow, when Captain E. Masquerier, with the ship Jane, fortunately arrived on the 30th of August, and to his goodness we are indebted for our passage to Malacca.

"On the 6th of September, we embarked in his vessel with Mr. Sharpe, Master G. Jones, four seapoys, three seacunnies, and five others, servants, &c.

"Captain Masquerier shaped a course to Monada, in hopes of falling in with the brig, and learnt, that a vessel answering to her description had passed under American colours some days before, steering towards the island of Ternate."

Piracy and mutiny are accounted offences so heinous at sea, that the perpetrators of them can meet with no protection from any nation. Even the most uncivilized look upon such criminals as unworthy their esteem, and they are in general punished with the utmost rigor in almost every country. Though we seldom hear of a vessel which has been recovered from piratical hands, yet mutineers and pirates, we may remark, generally encounter the most severe hardships, and few, very few indeed long survive the commission of such nefarious acts. Thus it seems that Providence holds in detestation those violaters at sea, and never suffers them to escape with impunity. If we compare those crimes with similar ones on land, we may have some idea of their magnitude. The man who commits burglary is esteemed the disturber of domestic peace, and is, without pity, consigned to the laws of justice; yet this man only rifles the house: but a mutineer,—a pirate runs away with the moveable dwelling, and not only deprives the Captain of his temporary home and property, but frequently leaves him and his associate

officers in a perilous situation. Seldom indeed does an act of mutiny take place that murder does not increase the catalogue of crimes.

At Malacca, where Captain Wallace was when this misfortune occurred, there are few domestic fowl, but a great quantity of wild fowl; there are several bats of an immense size, and the crows are both numerous and troublesome. There are various kinds of vermin, but few animals that are poisonous. They have sheep and cattle, and the sea abounds with excellent fish.

The natives, notwithstanding some peculiarities, have many excellent qualities. They treat the poor with great humanity, and never offer them any thing to eat that they would not make use of themselves. They are very silent during meals, and think it indecent to be long at table. Cleanliness is not only an article which is natural to them by custom, but which is also enforced by their religion.

No accounts have yet been received of the success of Captain Wallace's search after the pirates. Should he however be so fortunate as to recover the Admiral Trowbridge, our correspondent has promised to transmit us an accurate and copious narrative thereof, which we shall take the earliest opportunity of laying before our readers.



## CAPTIVITY AND CRUEL TREATMENT

OF

## M. DE BRISSON,

*On the Coast of Barbary, among the Moors,*

AND HIS

## HAPPY RELEASE.

**H**AVING, says our author, made several voyages to Africa, I received an order in June, 1785, from the Marshal de Castries, then minister and secretary of state for the marine department, to embark for the island of St. Louis, in the Senegal, in the St. Catherine, commanded by M. Le Turc. On the 10th of July we passed between the Canary isle and that of Palma, and the captain having rejected my advice relative to the caution necessary to be observed in those seas, the ship soon afterwards struck upon shoals.

A dreadful confusion ensued. The masts being loosened by the shock, quivered over our heads, and the sails were torn into a thousand pieces. The terror became general; the cries of the sailors, mixed with the terrible roaring of the sea, irritated, as it were, by the interruption of its course between the rocks and the vessel, added to the horror of the scene. In this dangerous state, such was the consternation of the crew, that no one thought of saving himself. "O my wife!" cried one. "O my dear children!" exclaimed a second; while others, extending their hands towards heaven, implored the divine protection. In the hope of saving the ship, the masts were cut away, but our exertions were of no avail, the hold being already filled with water.

We must inevitably have been lost, had not Mr. Yan, one of the lieutenants; Mr. Suret, a passenger; three English sailors, and a few others, encouraged by my example, assisted me to haul out the shallop, and to prevent it afterwards from being sunk or dashed in pieces against the sides of the ship. We were obliged to struggle the whole night against the fury of the sea, that when the day appeared we might be able to avoid the rocks, by which we were surrounded on all sides, and get, if possible, on shore.

We had scarcely made two strokes with our oars, when they were swept from the hands of the rowers by the violence of the waves; the shallop was overset; we were separated in an instant, and all, excepting Mr. Devoise, brother to the Consul at Tripoli, cast upon a sand-bank. I, however, immediately threw myself into the water, and was fortunate enough to save him from destruction.

Our unfortunate companions, who had remained on board, now saw themselves deprived of every assistance from us; but I soon revived their hopes, by plunging into the waves, accompanied by Mr. Yan, whose zeal and activity seconded my efforts. He prevailed upon the rest to join us in our endeavours to get the shallop afloat again, which we accomplished with great difficulty, but we found ourselves amply repaid for our labor when we set the rest of the crew on shore. We, however, escaped this first danger only to become the victims of a second, still more terrible.

When the wretched crew had reached the shore, I persuaded them to climb the surrounding rocks, on the summit of which we discovered an extensive plain, terminated by some small hills, covered with a kind of wild fern. On these hills we saw some children collecting a flock of goats. As soon as they beheld strangers, they set up such outcries as instantly alarmed and brought together the neighbouring inhabitants. These, after viewing the crew, began to dance and caper, at the same time uttering the most horrid cries and yells.

When these savages came up, some of my companions, among whom were the first and second lieutenants, separated from us. They were immediately surrounded and seized by the collar, and it was then that, by the reflection of the sun's rays from the polished blades of their poignards, we first discovered them to be armed. As I had not perceived this before, I had advanced without any fear.

Our two unfortunate companions having disappeared, I could



not make the men stop even for a short time. Fear got such possession of their hearts, that giving vent to cries of despair, they all fled different ways. The Arabs, armed with cutlasses and large clubs, fell upon them with incredible fury, and I had the mortification of soon seeing some of them wounded, while others, stripped naked, lay extended and expiring in the sand.

I was so fortunate as to obtain a promise of good-will from an unarmed Arab, who afterwards proved to be a talbe or priest, by giving him two watches, a gold stock-buckle, two pair of silver sleeve buttons, a ring set with diamonds, a silver goblet, and two hundred and twenty livres in specie. The latter article afforded him most pleasure.

The news of our shipwreck being spread through the country, we saw the savages running in great haste from all quarters: their numbers naturally increased the jealousy of the others, so that they soon came to blows, and several lives were lost in the contest. The women, enraged that they could not pillage the ship, fell upon and tore from us the few articles of dress we had left; but their attention was principally attracted by mine, which seemed to be more worthy of their notice.

My master, who was by no means of a warlike disposition, perceiving that the number of the Arabs increased every moment, called aside two of his friends, whom he cunningly admitted as partners with him in the property of twelve of the crew who had surrendered themselves to him. After making his arrangements he retired from the crowd, that he might shelter us from insult. The place which he chose for that purpose was a wretched hut, covered with moss, at the distance of more than a league from the sea; here we lodged, or rather were heaped one upon the other.

Our patron's first care was to pay us a visit, and to search us, lest we should have concealed any of our property. Unluckily for them my companions had preserved nothing, on which account he was in a very ill humour, and shewed them no mercy. He took from them even their shirts and handkerchiefs, intimating, that if he did not do them that favor, others would. He likewise attempted to pay me the same compliment, but upon my observing that I had already given him enough, I experienced no farther molestation.

Being as yet ignorant among what tribe we had fallen, I addressed myself to our master for information; and partly by words, and partly by signs, I put the following questions to him: "What is thy name, and that of thy tribe, and

why didst thou fly from these crowds who advanced towards the shores of the sea?" He replied: "My name is Sidy Mohammed of Zowze; my tribe is that of Lebdesseba, and I fled from the Ouadelims because we are not on good terms with one another." I was much affected to find that we had fallen into the hands of the most ferocious people who inhabit the deserts of Africa.

While the talbe repaired to the shore for more plunder, a company of Ouadelims discovered and pillaged our retreat, and beat us most unmercifully. I was almost at the last gasp, when one of the associates of the talbe came and rescued me, and before a large assembly afterwards claimed me as the reward of his valor. The priest made the strongest objections to this claim, threatening to chastise the claimant, who replied to the talbe: "Since this is thy pretension, as he cannot be mine, he shall perish by my hand." He had scarcely pronounced these words, when he drew his poniard to stab me. I trembled under the threatening dagger of this barbarian; but my master, without losing a moment, threw over me a kind of chaplet, formed of a long piece of cord, upon which are strung a great number of small black balls, and then took in his hand a small book which hung in his girdle. The women at the same instant, rushed towards me, snatched me from the hands of the claimant, and delivered me into those of the enraged priest, dreading lest he should thunder forth an anathema against his antagonist.

When I had recovered a little tranquillity, and began to reflect upon the danger I had escaped, I was so much affected that I could not refrain from tears. I endeavoured to conceal from every eye this testimony of my sensibility and grief; but being observed by some of the women, instead of feeling compassion, they threw sand in my eyes, "to dry my eye-lids," as they said. Fortunately the obscurity of the night concealed me from the sight of these monsters, and saved me from their fury.

We had now been three days in a state of slavery, and during that time had taken no nourishment but a little flour, which, though before spoiled by the sea water, was rendered still more disagreeable by the mixture of barley-meal, which had long been kept in a goat's skin; and bad as this repast was, it was repeatedly interrupted by the alarming outcries which we heard at some distance.

The Arab tribe to whom we were prisoners, had repaired to the sea-coast a few days before our shipwreck, to collect the fruits of wild plants for the support of their families in the interior of the country; but upon the approach of their enemies,



the Ouadelims, they prepared to return home with their provisions and prisoners.

After passing mountains of prodigious height, covered with small, sharp, greyish flints, we descended into a sandy valley, overgrown with sharp thistles. Having here slackened our pace, I found that the soles of my feet, were entirely covered with blood, so that it was impossible for me to proceed any farther. My master then made me get up behind him upon his camel; but this attention, on his part, instead of giving me any relief, had a quite contrary effect, and exposed me to the severest pain. A camel naturally steps very heavily, and his trot is remarkably hard. Being naked, and unable to defend myself from the friction of the animal's hair, in a very little time my skin was entirely rubbed off. My blood trickled down the animal's sides, and instead of exciting pity in these barbarians, this sight afforded them a subject of diversion. They made sport of my sufferings, and spurred on the camels, in order to heighten their enjoyment. My wounds would, in consequence, have been rendered incurable, had I not formed the resolution of throwing myself off and walking upon the sand. This I accomplished, and sustained no other injury in the fall than that of being dreadfully pricked by the thistles, which covered the whole surface of the ground.

Towards evening, perceiving a thick smoke, I imagined that we were approaching some hamlet, where we should find something to allay our intolerable thirst; but I soon perceived that there was nothing but a few bushes, in which our guide had taken up his lodging. Exhausted with fatigue, I retired behind one of them, to wait for the relieving hand of death, but had scarcely extended myself on the ground, when an Arab of our company came and compelled me to get up to unload his camel. This insult I resented, and found afterwards that it produced a good effect.

I observed preparations making which threw me into the greatest inquietude. They made flints red-hot in a large pan, raised a huge stone which lay at the foot of a bush, dug up the earth, and frequently repeating my name, they all burst into loud fits of laughter. Then calling me, they obliged me to approach the hole they had dug in the ground, while the man whom I had beaten made frequent signs with his hand, often drawing it backwards and forwards against his throat, as if to give me to understand that he would cut it, or that they were resolved to serve me in that manner. In spite of my resolution,

and the determination to defend myself these, gestures were very alarming; but my apprehensions were converted into surprise, when I saw them take from the pit which I had approached, a goat's skin full of water, a small leather bag, containing barley meal, and a goat newly killed. By the sight of these provisions I was restored to my former tranquillity, though I was ignorant for what purpose the heated flints were intended. At length I saw them fill with water a large wooden vessel, into which some barley meal had been put, and the red-hot flints being thrown into the water, served to make it boil. They then made a kind of paste, kneading it afterwards with their hands, and swallowing it without chewing.

As for us slaves we had no thing to eat but some of this paste, which was thrown to us upon the carpet used by our patron to put under his feet while he repeated his prayers, and in the night as a mattress to sleep on. After kneading this leaven a long time, he gave it to me to distribute it among my companions. It can scarcely be imagined how disagreeable it was to the taste. The water with which it was mixed had been procured on the sea-shore, and was afterwards preserved in a goat's skin, which they had lined with a kind of pitch to prevent it from corrupting, by which its smell was rendered doubly disgusting. This water was our only drink, and, bad as it was, our allowance was extremely scanty.

At dinner time, the next day, our masters regaled upon raw fat, of which they appeared remarkably fond. As soon as the meat was roasted, or rather baked, they took it from the earth, and, without taking time to free it from the sand which adhered to it, they devoured it with excessive voracity. Having well picked the bones, they used their nails to scrape off the remaining flesh, and then threw them to us, telling us, at the same time, to eat quickly, and to reload the camels, that our journey might not be delayed.

Passing some of the tents, the women, still more ferocious than the men, took pleasure in tormenting us, while our masters durst scarcely oppose them. Having retired to a small distance from my load, I perceived a man taking aim at me with a double-barrelled fusc, upon which I presented my breast to him, desiring him to fire. He was greatly astonished at this firmness, and his surprize tended to confirm me, in my opinion, that these people are impressed with respect when a person appears not to fear them. I was advancing towards this man, when I was struck on the head, and for a few moments deprived



of sense, by a stone from an unknown hand, but which I suspected to have been thrown by his wife.

After resting three days among the Arabs of the tribe of Roussye, we resumed our journey, penetrating farther into the interior of the country, where we were to join the families of our conductors. After being exposed for sixteen days to the greatest fatigues and dreadful miseries, we at length reached the end of our journey in a most wretched and exhausted condition.

Being observed upon the brow of a hill, several of the black slaves, whose principal enjoyment is to tend their camels, came to meet our masters, in order to kiss their feet, and enquire after their health. As we proceeded, the children made the air resound with shouts of joy, and the women standing up, out of respect, awaited, at the doors of their tents, the arrival of their husbands. Upon their approach they advanced towards them with an air of submission, and each, after prostrating before her husband, laid her right hand on his head and kissed it. This ceremony being finished, they began to satisfy their curiosity with regard to us, and to load us with abuse; but they did not stop here, for they even spat in our faces, and pelted us with stones. The children, imitating their example, pinched us, pulled our hair, and scratched us with their nails; their cruel mothers ordered them to attack sometimes one and sometimes another, and took pleasure in making them torment us. Exhausted with hunger, thirst, and despair, we had impatiently wished for the moment of our arrival, but little did we foresee the new torments that awaited us.

After our masters had divided their slaves, the favorite wife of the talbe ordered M. Devoise, M. Baudre, and myself, who had fallen to her husband's share, to unload the camels, to clean a kettle which she brought us, and to pull up some roots to make a fire. While thus employed in signifying her will to us, her husband was quietly enjoying a sound sleep on the knees of one of his concubines.

The hope of regaining my liberty inspired me with sufficient fortitude to endure the hardships imposed upon me by this diabolical woman. I, therefore, went to collect some wood, but what was my surprise, when upon my return, I beheld my two companions extended on the sand. They had been subjected to cruel treatment, because, their strength being entirely exhausted, they had been unable to perform the task assigned them. My repeated outcries awaked my master, and though

as yet, I spoke the language very imperfectly, I endeavoured to address him in the following terms: "Have you conducted us hither to cause us to be butchered by a cruel woman? Think of your promise. Conduct me without delay, either to Senegal or Morocco; if you do not, I will cause all the effects I gave you to be taken away."

My passion knew no bounds, and several of the neighbours having approached me, my master appeared to be extremely uneasy, fearing lest I should mention the quantity of the effects he had received from me. Addressing himself to his wife: "I forbid thee," said he, "to require from him the least service that may be disagreeable to him, and if thou dost, I desire that he may not obey thee." From that moment this woman conceived an implacable hatred against me.

The end of August approached, and not the smallest preparations were made for our journey. I asked Sidy Mohammed what he was waiting for, in order to conduct me to Senegal. He replied, that he was looking for strong vigorous camels capable of enduring the fatigues of such a journey, and that it was his intention to set off as soon as he had procured them.

I was the more urgent in entreating him not to delay, as the nights now began to be very uncomfortable, the dew frequently wetting us through the bushes, which afforded a kind of shelter. From this dew, we, however, obtained some relief; for, by collecting it in our hands from our bodies, it served to quench our thirst, which the coolness of the night did not allay, and we preferred it to our own urine, which we were often necessitated to drink. Having spoken to my master a second time, he made me such a reply as convinced me that he was sincere. "Dost thou think," said he, "that in the present excessive heat, it would be possible to travel without provisions, and above all, without water? We should find it very difficult to approach the Senegal, as the river has inundated all the neighboring plains; and we should have much to fear from the Arabs of the tribe of Trargea, who are our enemies. I tell thee the truth," added he, "we must wait till the month of October."

As we were Christians, when the Arabs had almost exhausted their provisions, the dogs fared better than we, and it was in the basins destined for their use that we received our allowance. Their object was to make us change our religion, but in this they failed, although our food now consisted of raw snails, and herbs and plants, that were trodden under foot



I was soon undeceived by a young female Moor, whose flocks fed with those I tended, respecting the hopes I had entertained of liberty, in consequence of my master's promises, and this information rendered my labours still more irksome and insupportable.

I no longer met in the fields my companions in misfortune, but, above all, I regretted the loss of the captain, with whom I found a kind of alleviation in conversing on our sufferings, and the hopes we entertained of returning to our native land. One evening, the coolness of the weather having enticed my camels to stray farther than usual, I was under the necessity of following them to a neighbouring hamlet, where I beheld a spectacle truly horrible. The unfortunate captain was extended lifeless upon the sand, holding in his mouth one of his hands, which his extreme weakness, had, doubtless, prevented him from devouring. He was so altered by famine, that all his features were absolutely effaced, and his body exhibited the most disgusting appearance.

A few days afterwards the second captain having fallen, through weakness, at the foot of an old gum tree, was attacked by an enormous serpent. Some famished crows, by their cries, frightened away the venomous animal, and alighting on the body of the dying man, were tearing him to pieces, while four savages, more cruel than the furious reptile, beheld this scene, without affording him the least assistance, I endeavoured to run towards him, if possible, to save his life, but was stopped by the barbarians, who, after insulting me, said: 'This christian also will soon become a prey to the birds.' Finding my efforts ineffectual, I hastened from this scene of horror; and not knowing which way to direct my steps, I followed my sheep and my camels. Upon my arrival at the tents, my master, struck with my absent and distracted looks, enquired what was the matter. Go, replied I, a few steps hence, and behold what your cruelty, and that of your wife, is capable of producing. You have suffered my companion to expire, and because his illness prevented him from working, you refused him the milk necessary for his subsistence.

While pronouncing these words I concealed my tears, which would only have excited the laughter of these human brutes, who ordered me to go and bring away the bloody clothes of the unhappy victim of their barbarity. I was fired with indignation at such an indecent proposal. My agitation, and the fern which I had eaten to appease my hunger, produced a painful

vomiting, which was succeeded by almost total debility. I was, however, able to crawl behind a bush, where I found another wretched object, who enquired the reason of my tears, and if I had seen Baudre. "He is not far off," I replied. This was all I could or wished to say; but my master's sister, who came to bring us something, exclaimed: "The crows are now devouring Baudre's entrails; you will soon meet the same fate; you are good for nothing else."

My health, which had hitherto been better than I could have expected, now declined fast. My whole skin had been twice renewed, and my body began to be covered, a third time, with a kind of scales, like those of the Arabs, and this change was attended with considerable pain. The thorns, over which I had walked, had torn my feet to the quick; I could scarcely stand erect, and the large dogs continually let loose upon me, and from which I could never disengage myself without receiving dreadful wounds, rendered me absolutely incapable of guarding the camels. To add to my misery, the excessive heats about the end of February and March had dried up all the water in that part of the country, and not a single drop of rain had fallen to moisten the fields which I had sown. Our cattle finding no pasture, were on the point of perishing, when the tribes of Labdesseba, and the Ouadelims, having taken into consideration their present condition, resolved to go in quest of some spot occupied by more industrious inhabitants.

In this melancholy situation I accidentally met with an Arab, having in his train a Christian slave, who, I found, had been baker to our ship. This man was disposed of to my master at a moderate price, and ordered to perform my ordinary labor. I had now an opportunity of recruiting my strength a little; but the unfortunate baker paid dearly for his knowledge in the art of preparing food. Having eaten all the snails we could find, we fed upon sheep which had died, either of hunger or disease. This suggested to us the idea of strangling a few kids in the night time, persuaded that our masters would not meddle with them, as their law prohibits their eating of any animal unless it has died by the knife: but being suspected, and at length caught in the fact, we narrowly escaped having our throats cut.

One morning, as I was preparing to set off to cut wood, poor Devoise, addressing me in a faint and languishing voice, said: "The illusion is now over; I hitherto flattered myself with



hopes of again beholding my native country, but I feel my strength forsake me. This night, my dear friend, for this title justly belongs to you, after all your care, you will find my body arrested by the cold hand of death. Adieu, my dear friend! the tears which you strive to conceal, are a new proof of your attachment. Write to my brother; tell him that I remembered him in my last moments, and that I die with the sentiments of a true christian. Adieu! my last moment is nearer than I expected. I expire." He spoke no more; that moment was indeed his last.

I was deeply affected at losing M. Devoise, though I had only known him since our departure from France. I went into the fields to seek the only companion I had now left, and upon our return, we were ordered to carry away our friend's body, and to dig a very deep pit, in order, as the Arabs said, to conceal that Christian from the sight of their children. This last duty to the deceased we performed with much difficulty; for being too weak to carry him, we were obliged to drag him by the feet three quarters of a league. The earth, at the brink of the pit, giving way, I tumbled in first, and was very near expiring under the weight of the body.

A few days afterwards we quitted that place to seek a more fertile spot, and encamped in the vicinity of several other tribes, where I found one of our sailors, named Denoux, who was a slave like myself. I enquired what had become of his companions. "Six of them," said he, "were carried away by the emperor's son, soon after our shipwreck, and have since gone to France. M. Taffaro, the surgeon-major, died of blows, he received on the head with a large stick; M. Raboin, second lieutenant, likewise expired in dreadful torture. Others, to avoid the horrors of famine, have renounced their religion. As for me, it will not be long before I follow those whom death has delivered from their misery. Behold in what a condition I am, there is no kind of ill treatment to which I am not daily exposed."

Upon the information that some of the crew had returned to France, I conceived new hopes, thinking that the marine minister would transmit positive orders to reclaim the rest. Such commands were actually received by the vice consul at Morocco, but he neglected to execute them. I was reflecting upon the causes of this total neglect, when, upon retiring behind my bush, I was much astonished to see my master's camels return-

ing without a guide. Being called, rather late, to receive my portion of milk, and not seeing the poor baker, I took the liberty of inquiring what was become of him, but the Arabs returned a very cold answer, and drove me from their presence. Early the next morning a young Arab, employed in tending the flocks, informed me that Sidy Mohammed, suspecting that the baker, privately milked his camels, watched him, and having caught him in the fact, seized him by the throat and strangled him.

I was now the only slave remaining in the hamlet, and had no longer any companion to whom I could communicate my misfortunes. My situation became daily more deplorable, but yet I resolved not to suffer myself to be dejected.

This resolution, and my conduct towards those who had endeavoured to humble me, procured me some respect among these savages; so that I was occasionally permitted to lodge in the back of their tents, and even sometimes to drink out of their vessels. My master too suffered me to remain unmolested, and I was no longer required to tend his camels. It is true, he never said a word concerning my liberty, but if he had I should not have regarded it, as I was so well acquainted with his perfidy that I placed not the least confidence in him. It was, however, necessary for me to take faggots, as I had done for some time, in order to exchange them for milk, being often driven by thirst almost to madness. The Arabs themselves suffered exceedingly from the same cause; several of them died of hunger and thirst; this being the fourth season in which their crops had been destroyed by drought. This dreadful situation had so irritated their minds, that the different tribes made war upon each other. Milk entirely failed them, and each tried who could carry off most cattle, for the purpose of killing them and drying the flesh. Water was still scarcer, as little is to be found in the desert, excepting towards the sea, and even there it is black, putrid, and brackish. The bad quality of this beverage, together with the want of pasturage, always keeps the Arabs at a distance from the coast. Being destitute of every kind of provision, none attempted to pursue his journey. Those who had the least milk quenched their thirst from the bowels of the camels which they killed. From the stomachs of these animals they pressed a greenish kind of water, which they carefully preserved, and boiled their flesh in it. That procured from the bodies of their goats had the taste and smell of sweet fennel, and the broth



made of it never appeared disagreeable; but that procured from the camel was not equally pleasing to the taste. I was much astonished, that these animals, which never drink above twice or thrice a year, and eat nothing but dried plants, should have such a prodigious quantity of water in their stomachs.

In order to regain my liberty I found means to get again into my possession the treasure I had given the Arab, which might have enabled me to cross the desert, and to bribe the Arabs to conduct me to Morocco. Sidy Mohammed, however, soon missed it, and prevailed on me, by various powerful arguments once more to restore it. The principal inducement was a promise of being sent to Mogador, and meanwhile to be allowed a sufficient quantity of milk, night and morning.

At length chance conducted Sidy Mahmud, sheriff of the tribe of Targea, to the place which I was watering with my tears. He inquired who I was, upon which the Arabs acquainted him with my history, boasting of the great riches, in powder and arms, which I was said to possess at Senegal. The sheriff immediately recollected me, asked me what situation I had held in the island of St. Louis, and I answered his questions. Looking at me nearer, he exclaimed: "What art thou Brisson?" Upon my replying in the affirmative, he appeared greatly astonished, and addressing himself to the Arabs: "You do not know this christian," said he; "every thing at Senegal belongs to him." This man having seen me deliver stores in the king's magazine, imagined that they were my property; and my master's brother-in-law, Sidy Selim, hearing this flattering account of my riches, did not scruple to purchase me at the price of five camels.

I was ignorant of this bargain, when I was unexpectedly filled both with joy and surprize. Returning one evening with my master from watering our camels, for the third time during three months, my mistress ordered me to carry a leather bucket, which she had borrowed, to a neighbouring tent. There I found Sidy Selim, who calling me to him, directed me to prepare to depart with him the next morning for Mogador. I had been so often flattered with this hope, and as often deceived, that I could scarcely believe him to be in earnest. The appearance, however, of some preparation for the proposed journey, convinced me that he was, and the old man, repeating his protestations, I was so transported that I threw myself at his feet, wept, sighed, and laughed; in short I knew not what I was doing.

In order to feel or form an idea of what I experienced, when I learned that the chains of my servitude were broken, a person must have been reduced to a similar situation.

"My former master then called me, and told me that I no longer belonged to him, "I have fulfilled my promise," he added, "you are going to be restored to your country." These words made me forget all my resentment, and resign myself entirely to joy, which was increased when informed that I was to have a companion. "We are going to join him," said he, "a few paces hence." I was far from suspecting that he meant the unfortunate baker. The moment I saw him, I asked by what miracle he had been restored to life. "Alas!" he replied, "I know not how I escaped death. Sidy Mohammed one day surprised me milking his camels. He ran up to me, gave me several blows, and squeezed my throat so closely, that I felt almost lifeless at his feet. Upon recovering my senses, I was astonished to find myself alone. My neck was covered with blood, and you may still see the marks of his nails. I crawled, as well as I was able, into a cavern of the rock, which several times echoed the voice of my barbarous master, who came back to look for me, or, at least, to see in what situation I was. I had resolved either to starve myself to death, or to make for the sea-coast, in the hope of meeting with some vessel. I had scarcely proceeded a few steps among the rocks, in order to hail a small sloop, which lay at anchor off the coast, when I was seized by two young Arabs, who took the greatest care of me; and since that time I have been their slave. They appeared to be of a much milder disposition than the Arabs of the interior, and are much more industrious. They informed me, about a fortnight ago, that they were going to take me to the sultan; and I am inclined to believe that their reason for bringing me hither was, because they had agreed upon this place of rendezvous with your master, after informing him that they had me in their possession."

Sidy Mohammed's behaviour, upon taking leave of me, was very affecting. "Adieu, my dear Brisson!" said he; "you are about to undertake a long journey. You will soon perceive that I had great reason to be afraid of it. I wish no danger may befall you, and that your passage by sea may be more fortunate than the last. Adieu! forget not to send my wife the scarlet cloth. Charge it to the account of Sidy Selim. Once more adieu, my dear Brisson!" The tears which accompanied the last words, might have deceived me, had I not known what an adept he was in the art of dissimulation.



After we had been sixty-six days on our journey, my strength was exhausted, my legs were prodigiously swelled, my feet covered with running sores, and I should infallibly have sunk under my misfortunes, had not my master, to encourage me, every now and then said:—"Behold the sea! Dost thou not see the ships? Have a good heart; we are almost at our journey's end." Hope supported me, and when I least expected it, I beheld the element of which I had so much cause to complain. Upon quitting a labyrinth of broom brushes, we arrived at the top of a few little sand-hills, when, to my inexpressible joy—a joy of which the reader can scarcely form an idea—I perceived the French colours, and those of several other nations, floating over the poops of different vessels lying in the harbour of Mogador, which place I as yet knew only by the name of Saira. "Well, Brisson!" said my master, "art thou not content? Dost thou not see the vessels? Are there any French? I promised to conduct thee to the consul, and thou seest I have kept my word. But what is the matter?—thou art quite silent?" Alas! what could I answer? I could scarcely give vent to my tears; and to articulate a word was impossible. I surveyed the sea, the colours, the ships, and the city, and thought that every thing I beheld was only an illusion. The unfortunate baker, equally affected and surprised, joined his sighs with mine; while my tears bathed the hands of the generous old man who had procured me the enjoyment of such an agreeable prospect.

Upon entering the city we met two Europeans, "Whoever you may be," said I, "behold the misery of an unfortunate man, and deign to assist him. Afford me some consolation, and revive my drooping spirits. Where am I? Of what country are you? What day of the month is it? What day of the week is it?"—I found that I had addressed two of my countrymen from Bourdeaux, who, after looking at me a few moments, went to inform Messrs. Duprat and Cabannes, who considered it a part of their duty to relieve, as far as lay in their power, such unhappy people as might be driven upon these coasts. Those gentlemen came to meet me, and, without being disgusted by my appearance, which was far from inviting, they clasped me in their arms and shed tears of joy at being able to relieve an unfortunate man.

While I was waiting for an audience of the emperor, I saw a captain review his troop. He was seated upon the ground, with his chin resting upon his two fists, and his arms placed

upon his knees, which were bent upwards. He made his soldiers advance two by two, then gave his orders, upon which the men, after prostrating before him, retired to their posts, or went to enjoy their amusement.

Five or six of the guards arriving with white staves, suddenly leaped upon me, seized me by the collar, like a malefactor, and having ordered two large folding doors, like those of our barns, to be opened, they pushed me rudely into a kind of enclosure, where I looked in vain for any thing announcing the majesty of the throne. Having walked fifteen or twenty paces past a kind of wheelbarrow, my attendants made me suddenly turn about, and pushing me in a very brutal manner, ordered me to prostrate myself before this wheelbarrow, in which the emperor was seated cross-legged, amusing himself with stroking his toes. Having looked at me for some time, he asked if I was not one of those christian slaves whose vessel had been cast away upon his coasts about a year before; what was the intention of my voyage to Senegal, &c. "You were lost through your own fault," said he, "Why did you not keep farther from the shore? Art thou rich?" added he, "Art thou married?"

I had scarcely answered the questions, when he ordered paper and ink to be brought him, with a small reed, which he used as a pen. He then traced out the four cardinal points, to shew me that Paris laid towards the north, and wrote down a few cyphers, asking me if I knew them. He likewise put several other questions of the same kind to display the great extent of his learning.

"Did the mountaineers treat thee well?" continued the prince, "did they make much of thy effects?" I replied to all his questions; observing, that the nearer we approached the capital we found the manners of the inhabitants milder and more civilized. "My authority," replied he, "does not extend over all the country thou hast traversed, or rather my orders cannot be conveyed so far. With whom didst thou come?" "With Sidy Selim, of the tribe of Roussye." "I know him," said the emperor, "let him be brought hither." A moment afterwards my master was introduced. The emperor ordered one of his guards to take care of me and the baker, till he should receive fresh orders, and to supply me with food from the royal kitchen; this man seemed greatly surprized that the sultan should have conversed so long with a slave.



Fortunately the French consul was, at this time, in great favour with the emperor, on account of some presents which he had made him. The emperor, for this reason, set all the prisoners at liberty, and me among the rest; so that we had now only to consider of the necessary measures for our return to France.

The Arabs of the desert, among whom I had resided, are so ignorant, that they not only consider themselves as the principal nation in the world, but have the foolish vanity to believe that the sun rises for them only: "behold that luminary," said they, "which is unknown in thy country! During the night, thou art not lighted as we are, by that heavenly body which regulates our days and our fasts. His children (meaning the stars) point out to us the hours of prayer. You have neither trees nor camels, sheep, goats, nor dogs. Are your women made like ours?" "Indeed," said one, counting my fingers and toes, "he is made like us; he differs only in colour and language, which astonishes me. "Do you sow barley in your houses?" (meaning our ships.) "No," answered I; "we sow our fields almost in the same season as you."—"How!" exclaimed several of them, "do you live upon land? We believed that you were born and lived upon the sea."

As soon as my quarantine was finished at Cadiz, where I landed, before I proceeded to my native land, or to the arms of a tender and affectionate wife, I wrote to the Marechal de Castries that I waited for his orders to return to Senegal. Charged with fresh dispatches, I again embarked at Havre de Grace, on the 6th of May, 1787, and had the good fortune to arrive at the island of St. Louis, without any accident.