

The king, some time before the admiral came to Lisbon, had sent another fleet to India, under the command of John de Nova, a very gallant gentleman. It consisted, however, only of three ships; for as Emmanuel thought that the squadron he had sent with Cabral the foregoing year, would be strong enough either to procure a peace, or to carry on war with the zamorin of Calicut, he therefore concluded, that this small reinforcement would be sufficient. But when he found by the account Cabral gave, to what dangers the Portuguese had been exposed, and what conspiracies had been formed against them, he then determined to send out a much larger force. Accordingly, the following year he fitted out a fleet of ten ships for India, to each of which he assigned brave and able officers, and appointed Vasco de Gama admiral. At the same time he ordered five more to be equipped, the command of which he gave to Vincent Sodre, a man of great courage, whose instructions were to scour the

the Indian ocean, and to seize all the Arabian ships which should sail from Mecca to India. This fleet of fifteen ships being furnished with every thing necessary for the voyage, sailed from the port of Bethlem on the 10th of February: nor did he think this force altogether sufficient to carry on his great designs in India; for soon after he ordered five more to be got ready, which sailed from Lisbon on the first of April, and steered the same course, under the command of Stephen Gama, first cousin of Vasco.

This same year queen Mary was delivered of her first son. The day on which he was born was made memorable by a violent storm, such as the oldest men living did not remember to have seen the like. A gloomy darkness seemed to cover the whole face of the earth; and it thundered and lightened to such a degree, that the most brave and intrepid persons were filled with fear and consternation. Many houses were beat down, trees were torn up by the violence of the hurricane; whilst at the same time, the fall of rain was so great, that not only the streets, but many of the houses were filled with water. When the tempest ceased, then Emmanuel and his people resumed their joy for the birth of the young prince. A week afterwards the child was baptized by the name of John; Pedro Pascal, the Venetian ambassador, was one of the sponsors; this gentleman had been deputed by the Venetians, to return Emmanuel thanks for the fleet sent to their assistance, and to assure his majesty, that the senate and people of Venice would always retain a grateful sense of his kindness. The king conferred upon him the honour of knighthood with his own hands; and at his departure, loaded him with many valuable presents. Pascal being charmed with this generosity of Emmanuel, when he returned home bestowed the highest encomiums upon him, and inspired all the Venetians with the utmost love and respect for his Portuguese majesty. The day the young prince was baptized, the palace suddenly took fire; but by timely assistance

stance it was soon extinguished. This same year Emmanuel fitted out another fleet, which he sent to the streights of Gibraltar, to curb the insolence of the Moors: but they performed nothing worthy to be related.

In the mean while John de Nova proceeded in his voyage with very favourable weather. Having passed the Line, he discovered an island hitherto unknown to our people; this he called the island of Conception. The next place he touched at was Agua de S. Blas, where he proposed to water the ships. Here he spied an old shoe hanging upon the branches of a tree, which, as he concluded it must be hung there for some particular purpose, he ordered to be brought to him. It contained a letter wrote by Pedro Ataide, warning the Portuguese who should touch at that place in their way to India, 'To beware of the zamorin of Calicut, who had behaved to our people in the most cruel and perfidious manner; and endeavoured, by all possible means, to bring about their destruction.' When Nova made Quiloa, he found one of the exiles, who delivered him a letter from Cabral, much to the same effect. At Melinda he was informed by the king of the various schemes and plots formed against Cabral by the king and people of Calicut. Thence he steered for Anchediva, where he watered his ships, and made directly for Cananor. The king received him with the highest marks of friendship and hospitality.

Whilst Nova remained at this place, there came to him Gundiffalyo Peixot, a Portuguese, who, during the tumult in which Aires Correa was slain, had been most miraculously saved by the generous protection of one Coje Bequi, who, though an Arabian, had proved a most excellent friend to our people. This Portuguese was sent by order of the zamorin from Calicut to Nova, to set forth to him, 'That the tumult where- in so many of the Portuguese suffered, had been raised, and carried on by an enraged multitude, entirely without the approbation, or even knowledge of his majesty, who desired nothing more than the cultivating

‘tivating of a friendship with Emmanuel; and that it
 ‘would give him the highest pleasure if Nova would
 ‘come to Calicut, where he promised he should be
 ‘treated in the most friendly manner, and receive such
 ‘a cargo of goods as would enable him to acquire
 ‘the riches of a prince.’ Peixot having delivered this
 message from the zamorin to Nova, next communi-
 cated to him the private instructions received from Co-
 je Bequi, who advised the admiral ‘not to give the
 ‘least faith to that perfidious prince; who, he said,
 ‘wanted only to decoy the Portuguese into his power,
 ‘that he might have an opportunity to destroy them;
 ‘and that whoever was so foolish as to put any con-
 ‘fidence in a man void of all honour, would certainly
 ‘suffer for his simplicity.’ Nova therefore returned
 no answer to the zamorin; nor did Peixot go back to
 Calicut.

The admiral, after having stayed a short time at Cananor, proceeded for Cochin. In his way thither he fell in with a ship from Calicut, which having taken, he plundered and burnt: soon after he reached the harbour of Cochin. His arrival there was matter of great joy to the Portuguese in that place; who now looked upon themselves as delivered from the jaws of death, for notwithstanding the king himself behaved to them with the greatest humanity, and appointed several of his nobles as their protectors, yet they lived in the utmost danger from the Arabians, who were very numerous in that city. The king treated Nova with the highest civility; and in every respect acquitted himself like a man of honour and probity.

The admiral managed all his affairs at Cochin according to his wishes; and having almost loaded his ships, he sailed back to Cananor to take in a quantity of spices, which were accordingly furnished him with great civility and readiness. When he was about to depart from thence, the king of Cananor, informed him, That the zamorin of Calicut had fitted out above 80 vessels, which were to be stationed at the mouth of the
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the harbour; so that the Portuguese ships being thus blocked up, might be more easily destroyed: he therefore advised Nova to advance nearer to the shore, that he might be enabled to assist him with his land forces; for he could not conceive that four ships could stand before such a powerful fleet. Nova returned the king thanks for this new instance of his friendship, and bid him not be uneasy about the fate of our people. He said, he put his trust in the Almighty God, and relying upon his divine protection, would not be afraid to encounter the most formidable enemy.

Nova next day descried the fleet from Calicut, consisting of above 100 ships, in the entrance of the harbour: he disposed his ships in such a manner, that they might be able to use all their guns at once. He charged the officers by all means to beware of coming to close quarters with so numerous an enemy; for their safety was chiefly placed in observing this precaution. He ordered the artillery to be managed so as to make a continual discharge upon the enemy; for if the firing should cease at any time, he foresaw the Portuguese must fall into the most imminent danger. These orders were accordingly executed with the utmost exactness; and our people, with great briskness and emulation, continued playing their cannon till sun-set. There were killed 417 of the enemy, besides a great many wounded; and some of their ships were sunk, whilst the Portuguese sustained no loss. The enemy hoisted an ensign of peace; Nova suspecting this might be some stratagem, ordered the attack to be renewed. They sent an Arabian to the admiral, desiring a truce for that night. Nova answered, he would grant their request, on condition they should immediately remove their ships from the entrance of the harbour, and allow him a free passage. The enemy very readily complied with this demand; and Nova having sailed out of the bay, the two fleets lay at anchor near the mouth of the harbour, at a little distance from each other. The Calicutians, however, not regarding the truce,

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let down some persons into the sea, who were to swim to the Portuguese ships, and try to cut the cables: they dispatched, at the same time; a number of boats, with several men aboard, who, as soon as this was compleated, were to throw lighted torches into the ships. But this villainous contrivance, which might have been attended with the most fatal consequences; was happily discovered; and frustrated by the vigilance and assiduity of our people: The enemy seeing they could not gain their ends by open force; nor secret cunning, weighed anchor, and with crouded sails; stood away for Calicut.

Nova being thus happily delivered from such threatening danger, without any further delay, proceeded on his voyage homewards. When he had sailed a little way, he met with a ship of Calicut, which he plundered and burnt: he then continued his course; and had a very quick and easy passage to the Cape. Some time after he turned it, he discovered a little island lying in 15 degrees south latitude, to which he gave the name of St. Helena. This island standing by itself in the midst of such a vast ocean, seems, as if it were to have been placed there by Providence, for the reception and shelter of weather-beaten ships in their return from an Indian voyage. There are many delightful rivers in this place. It is covered with fine trees, and the air is temperate and healthy: and after it was inhabited and cultivated (which we shall take notice of afterwards) it abounded in all kind of cattle, and the soil produced plenty of all sorts of fruits and refreshing herbs. It is now rendered the most useful spot for our people who trade to India. Here they always take in wood and water for their ships, where they may likewise have the diversions of fishing and hunting, and lay in a supply of provisions. Nova having departed from St. Helena, set out for Portugal; where, after a very favourable and easy voyage, he arrived on the 11th day of September 1502, to the great joy of Emmanuel and all his people.

Emmanuel