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AFFECTING NARRATIVE OF THE

# LOSS

OF THE

## THAMES SMACK,

CAPTAIN CRAIGGY,

Which, through a fatal Mistake, was run on the Nore Sand,

*Tuesday, February 8, 1809,*

INCLUDING THE

*Escape of the Captain and Crew in the Boat,*

AND THE

PERILOUS SITUATION

OF

FOUR FEMALE PASSENGERS, CAPTAIN JOHNSON,

AND A

PRIVATE SOLDIER,

*Who were inhumanly left behind ;*

MIRACULOUS PRESERVATION OF THE MEN,

AND

LOSS OF THE WOMEN.

ALSO THE

### SUFFERINGS

OF

## ALEXANDER SELKIRK,

*Who was left on a desolate Island,*

On which the Story of ROBINSON CRUSOE is founded.

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LONDON :

Printed for THOMAS TEGG, 111, Cheapside.

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AFFECTING NARRATIVE

OF THE

LOSS

OF THE

*THAMES SMACK,*

CAPTAIN CRAIGGY,

Which run on the Nore Sand, the 8th of February, 1809.



AS an early account of the recent and calamitous wreck of the Thames Smack, which is not at present generally known, must be highly acceptable to the curious, we have endeavoured to procure the most authentic and satisfactory intelligence, which we shall now lay before our readers.

The Thames Smack, Captain Craiggy from Dundee, had the misfortune, on Tuesday, the 8th of February, 1809, about nine o'clock at night, to run on the Nore Sand, which the Captain mistook for the Middle Sand. She had on board a young lady, the daughter of a naval officer, going on a visit to her friends, three females, and one male domestic belonging to Lord Keith's establishment, and Captain James Johnson of Arbooth, with another passenger or two.

Immediately on the ship striking, Captain Johnson, without any hesitation, represented to Captain Craiggy that they were unluckily on the Nore Sand, and not the Middle Sand, as he supposed, and that their situation was extremely critical. The Captain of the smack, however, maintained a different opinion, and said that on the flowing of the tide, it would be seen that

the vessel would float, and all would be well again. Under this impression, the Captain and all the passengers went to rest.

Captain Johnson, still continuing apprehensive, remained on deck until past eleven o'clock, when he turned in with his clothes on. About an hour after, the tide began to flow, the ship began to beat upon the sand, the wind had come on to blow, and he was now certain the danger he had apprehended was at hand. He jumped out of bed, and first examined the shuttle in the cabin floor, but at that time no extra water appeared there. He had scarcely, however, been on deck, and recommended to Captain Craigg to prepare a second pump, when the footman announced that the water had suddenly filled up to the cabin floor. It was then deemed advisable to keep the vessel out of deep water, as the only prospect of saving their lives.

We shall now take a view of the critical situation of the vessel with some directions with respect to those sands. The Nore Sand, at the east end of which the lighthouse lies in four fathoms at low water, extends about two miles and a half W.N.W. and E.S.E. is half a mile broad, and dries at low water. The marks for the lighthouse at the east end of this sand are Minster Church, on with the easternmost part of a triangular field, by some called Mizen-hedge, bearing S.S.W. and the Sheer hulk a sail's breadth from the garrison at Sheerness. The mark for the upper or the west end of the sand is Queenborough Church on with the Sheer hulk. From the Nore light the lower end of the river middle bears about W.N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. distant three miles, and Shoeburyness buoy bears N. by W. distant three miles and a half. From abreast of Shoeburyness buoy, the high road is W.N.W. and the distance four miles and a half.

The Middle Ground is a small sand bank, a little to the westward of Westgate bay, and lying rather nearer to the shore than to Margate Sand. It is about a mile long and a cable's length broad, has on each end two fathoms water, and on the middle eleven feet at low water. In the mid-channel, between the Middle Ground and Margate Sand, there are four and five fathoms at low water.

The tide flows at the Nore on the change and full days of the moon, half an hour past 12 o'clock, and the water rises about fourteen feet. At Holly haven it flows three quarters past 12 o'clock, and the water rises fifteen feet. At Poorfleet it flows half an hour past one o'clock, and the water rises about seventeen feet. At Cuckold's Point it flows a quarter past 2

o'clock, and the water rises eighteen feet. With respect to the tides, it may with propriety be observed that in all rivers the stream does not immediately turn round the several points; but in passing out of one reach into another, it has a tendency towards the shore opposite to that point round which it must turn, by degrees, until it runs in the direction of the new channel. The distance which the water will go beyond the several points, before it runs exactly in the direction of the new channel, will depend upon the three following things, namely, the velocity of the stream, the width of that part of the river, and the difference of the direction of the reach out of which the water is passing, and that into which it is then entering. Where the river is narrow, the motion of the water rapid, and the difference in the direction of the two reaches considerable, the water will run with some degree of violence against the shore which is opposite to the point, and the resistance which it will there meet with from the solid shore, and the rising of the water thereby occasioned at that place above its due level, will make it run obliquely across the channel again towards the opposite shore, considerably above or below the point, according as it happens to be flood or ebb tide.

From the Nore to the buoy on the Spite the course is S.E. by E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. and the distance six miles. The Spite buoy is black, and lies in two fathoms at low water; the mark for it is Shot-tenden Mill, two sails' breadth of the east end of Sheepy Island, bearing S.S.W. The marks for this buoy are Seasaltar Church, open of Sheepy Isle, bearing S.W. by S. and Minster Church on with the Red Cliff, bearing W. by N. The Spaniard from the west to the east, extends E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. about five miles and a half, and is about three quarters of a mile broad. The Middle Ground or Sand, (before mentioned) lies to the northward of the Spaniard, and nearly parallel to it, is about a mile and three quarters long, and half a mile broad; the west end of this ground lies about a mile and a quarter N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. from the west buoy of the Spaniard, and about three quarters of a mile S.S.E. from the buoy on the Spite. On the shoalest part of the Middle Ground, which is near to its west end, there are only four-feet at low water. The Gilman lies nearly in the same direction as the Middle Ground; is about two miles long and half a mile broad; its west end lies about half a mile, E  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. from the east end of the Middle Ground. On the south side of the Gilman, and near to its east end, there is a red buoy in seven feet at low water: the marks for it are Minster Church W. by N. and St. Nicholas

Church about a ship's length open to the eastward of Reculver Church, bearing S E. by S. The buoy on the east end of the Spaniard bears S.E. by E. distant about two miles and a half from the Gilman: it is black, and lies at two fathoms in low water; the marks for this buoy are flickmay Tree, open to the southward of the Muscle houses, bearing W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. and Reculver Church S.S.E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. Five Fathoms Channel is about a mile wide between the Middle Ground and the Spaniard, and abreast of the Gilman, it is a mile and a half wide. The leading mark through this Channel is Minster Church, (on the isle of Sheepy) kept on with the middle of Bradgate Bay. Between the Middle Ground and the Gilman to the southward, and the Spite and Red Sand to the northward, there is a channel in which there are about two fathoms and a half at low water; but its narrowness renders it almost impracticable.

From this view of the *Noire* and its adjacent ports, Captain Craigg's mistake is rather extraordinary. He was soon, however, convinced of his mistake. Captain Johnson directed his attention to the women below; he got them all upon deck as soon as possible, without waiting for their clothes, and placed them forward covering them with blankets from the beds. At this period, the leeward side of the cabin was under water, and as the wind blew tremendously, the ship was expected to go to pieces every moment. The only chance now left to preserve their lives was to quit the ship in a boat, and Captain Johnson ran below for his coat and dry blankets for the women.

On his return upon deck he found Captain Craigg and the crew clearing the boat from off the deck in which some of the men had deposited their bundles, containing their clothes, which Captain Johnson threw overboard, declaring that no luggage should be taken in preference to the persons on board. He then went forward to hurry the ladies into the boat, as he perceived a disposition not to wait for any body, and before he could get them all to the ship's side, he heard a cry of "Cut the painter," (a technical term for the rope that holds the boat fast to the ship.) Captain Johnson was exceedingly hurt at this inhuman behaviour, and by entreaties endeavoured to prevail upon them to wait. "For God's sake," he cried, "do not leave us; do not leave the poor women to perish." But so it was, the boat left the ship with Captain Craigg and the crew, consisting of ten men, and two men passengers, amongst whom was Lord Keith's footman, who had two ribs broken by jumping into the boat at the time of its quitting the ship.

Every reader of sensibility must turn away with indignation at the unmanly behaviour of the boat's crew. The English character has ever been distinguished for its courtesy to the female sex, and the warrior, whether by sea or land, has been always ready to stretch out his hand towards the protection of the helpless fair. Captain Johnson, whom we may therefore justly style the hero of this narrative, distinguished himself by his politeness to the women. Had he alone been careful of himself, as Captain Craigg, like him, he might have secured his passage in the boat; but he forfeited his chance by attending to the voice of humanity. It may indeed be urged in favour of the boat's crew, that self preservation is the first law of nature; that an additional number might have endangered the lives of the whole, and that women, in particular, are, through their natural timidity, a dangerous party to admit in a crowded boat. We find, however, no intimations to any of these points; no soothing promises of either returning or sending relief to keep hope alive, and rouse the drooping spirits of those behind. On the contrary it seemed to be a concerted departure, and Captain Craigg, by whose fatal mistake the vessel was wrecked, will find it difficult, we presume, to defend his sudden abandonment of the ship and most helpless of her crew. Every captain of honour in an hour of danger remains the last on board, and by his presence preserves order and subordination.

The unfortunate passengers left behind were the four women, with Captain Johnson and a private soldier, who had lost their passage in the boat by their zeal to preserve the lives of the females. It was in vain that Captain Johnson and the soldier begged the women to embrace the only means left to preserve their existence by exerting themselves to get up the shrouds. They were benumbed with cold, and otherwise in a helpless situation. The moment Captain Johnson and the soldier went aloft, the three female domestics were washed overboard, and perished: the voice of the officer's daughter was heard on board about twenty minutes, after which, it totally ceased. Thus were the lives of the women sacrificed!

About eight o'clock the next morning, the male passengers were relieved from their perilous situation by a ship's boat passing near them, and Captain Johnson declared that from the inclemency of the weather, and his benumbed faculties he could not have survived two hours longer.

It was afterwards understood that Captain Craigg and his inhuman crew had been picked up the morning after they had

left the vessel, and that the footman, who had broken two of his ribs, was immediately conveyed to his master's house, where, at the time of our correspondent's writing, he was lying dangerously ill.

It was, we understand, Captain Craigg's determination that all the crew of the vessel should partake of the benefit of the boat. With this view he entered the boat himself, but on his taking his place in it, the crew of the boat took the authority of it from him, and left the smack, in spite of his orders to the contrary. Should this account be true, the Captain must be acquitted of inhumanity, and the crime be alone imputed to the unfeeling men who were with him.

## EXTRAORDINARY SUFFERINGS

OF

# ALEXANDER SELKIRK,

Who was left on a desolate Island,

*On which the Story of Robinson Crusoe is founded.*

**T**HE celebrated pantomime of Robinson Crusoe being founded upon the adventures of Alexander Selkirk, an account of the original will, we presume, be highly acceptable to the majority of our readers.

In the famous war concerning the Spanish succession, several merchants entered into a scheme for a privateering expedition to the South-sea. To this they were induced by reports of the extraordinary exploits, which the Bucaniers had performed in those parts in small vessels, and those but badly equipped.

Two vessels were accordingly fitted out, each of which carried twenty-six guns and an hundred, and twenty men. The



St. George was commanded by Captain Dampier, who was now famous by a voyage of discovery to New Holland, &c. in 1699, as well as by his former voyages; and the Fame, by Captain John Pulling. They were each of them amply provided with warlike stores, were well victualled for nine months, and had commissions from his Royal Highness Prince George, then Lord High Admiral, to proceed in a warlike manner against the French and Spaniards, and were both upon the terms of no purchase, no pay.

The voyage proved unfortunate from its commencement, for even while they were in the Downs, a quarrel arose between the two captains, which ended in Pulling's going away with his ship, the Fame. He intended, he said, to cruize among the Canary Islands; but neither he, nor his ship, was ever heard of again.

Captain Dampier, however, sailed from the Downs April 30, 1703, and on the 18th of May, anchored at Kinsale, in Ireland, where he refitted and victualled the ship. While he lay here, another vessel, in which Mr. Selkirk was, arrived on purpose to join him, viz. the Cinque Ports galley, of about ninety tons, sixteen guns, and sixty-three men, very well victualled and provided for the voyage.

On the 11th of September, the two ships left Kinsale, and reached Madeira on the 25th, where they did not anchor, but lay off and on for the boats which were sent ashore for necessaries. Having heard that the galleons had arrived at Teneriffe, their intended expedition to Buenos Ayres was given up. They sailed on the 28th, and on the 30th saw Palma and Ferro, two of the Canaries. Not choosing to stop here, they made the best of their way to the Cape de Verde Islands, and on the 6th of October, saw Mayo. The chief produce of this island is salt, which may be had for fetching. They lay off and on all night for this purpose, but there ran so great a surf, that they durst not venture their boats on shore. Therefore, on the morning of the 7th, they bore away for St. Jago, and about noon anchored in Prior Bay.

Here they watered the ship, and refreshed themselves, and here the expedition received another shock, for Dampier falling out with his first lieutenant, turned both him and his servant ashore, at twelve o'clock at night, with their chests and clothes, much against their wills. The next morning, October 13, they parted from the island, not being fully resolved where to touch at next.

November 2, they crossed the Equator; and the same day they saw abundance of flying fish. On the 15th, fourteen or fifteen of the men fell ill of a fever. On the 19th, they anchored at the islands of St. Anne, on the coast of Brazil; and going on shore, cut a long-boat load of wood, but could find no fresh water.

On the 24th they cast anchor at the island of Le Grand, the inhabitants of which are jackals, lions, tygers, monkeys, &c. which in the night make a most hideous noise. The main land was distant about three miles, very mountainous and woody; where was a small town of the Portuguese, called Le Grand. At this island they wooded, watered, and refitted; and Dampier differing with his new first lieutenant, the latter, with eight men, taking their goods, went on shore and left him. Another misfortune attending this voyage, was the death of Charles Pickering, Captain of the Cinque Ports, whose body was buried ashore, at the watering place, with the usual ceremony of firing of guns; and Mr. Thomas Stradling, his lieutenant, took the command of his ship.

December 8, they sailed from hence, not intending to touch any where till they arrived at Juan Fernandez. On the 29th, they saw the three islands of Sebald de Weerd. January 4, 1704, in latitude 57—50 S. there came on a very hard storm of wind, at S.W. in which the Cinque Ports lost sight of the St. George. They therefore made the best of their way for Juan Fernandez, the next appointed place of rendezvous. The particulars of their passage round Cape Horn have never been ascertained; however, they arrived at that island, February 10, and anchored in the great bay called Cumberland Bay, to wait for their companions.

Captain Dampier, on the 9th, supposing he had got to the westward of the cape, gave orders to put the ship about, and stood away to the northward. On the 11th, contrary to all their expectations, they saw land; which proved to be four islands, about five leagues to the eastward of Terra del Euego, or the Land of Fire. On this they tacked and stood southward again.

On the 20th, they found the latitude by observation, 60 deg. 51 min. which was the farthest South they ever were. They made the longitude from London, 84 deg. 10 min. W. Being therefore pretty well assured they were got about the Cape, they tacked and stood northward again.

February 4, they saw the island La Moucha, and on the 7th, they saw Juan Fernandez, and stood off and on, but drawing pretty near it, Captain Dampier, though he had been here both at the leaving and finding of William, the Mosquito, did not think it the right island. They therefore stood away to the east for about thirty leagues: but meeting with no land, they stood back again on the 10th, and, passing by the great bay, saw the Cinque Ports lying at anchor there. They therefore anchored in the little bay (called West Bay) but finding it inconvenient, weighed and joined their consort.

Here they wooded, watered, keeled, and refitted both the ships; but while this was doing, a great quarrel broke out between Stradling, the new captain, and his crew; forty-two of whom left him and went on shore. So that for two days, the ship lay, as it were, without men. At last, by the interposition of Dampier, they were again reconciled, and returned to their duty.

They caught store of goats, and esteemed a joint of one roasted, with about half a foot of cabbage boiled, a very good meal. They killed several sea lions, and their fat made a ton of oil for their lamps. They likewise used it in frying of fish, and did not dislike the taste.

On the 29th of February, (five of Stradling's men, and Dampier's negro being gone to the west end of the island) about noon, a sail was discovered; which being pretty near, they hurried the crews on board, got up the yards and top-masts, let slip, and made after it; this being observed by the strange ship, she tacked and stood from them. The *St. George*, which was first in the pursuit, had clapped her long boat on the moorings, and left it. Stradling's long boat, it is supposed, was gone with the six men. All his sails, except those at the yards, with a great many other stores, which he could ill spare, were on shore. Both vessels left their anchors, cables, several tons of water in casks, and the ton of oil which they had made. In the chace, the pinnace of *St. George* towed under water, and was cut loose. Stradling's boat also broke loose, in which were a man and a dog, so that the poor fellow and his dumb companion, in an open boat, were left to the mercy of this immense ocean.

About eleven at night, they came up with the *Chace*, but did not think it proper to engage till day-light. At sun-rise next morning, March 1, they began the engagement. Their antagonist was a French ship of about 400 tons and thirty guns, well manned. The *St. George* had at this time, between twenty and thirty

men very sick and weak, but they were very willing to shew themselves, and did what they could. They fought very close, broad-side and broad-side, for seven hours, and lost nine men, several more being wounded, and were upon the point of striking, not having men sufficient to defend themselves; when a small gale springing up, they sheered off and escaped: and when they arrived at Lima, the captain sent ashore thirty-two of his men; each of whom had lost either a leg, an arm, or an eye. As to the Cinque Ports, she fired about ten or twelve guns, and falling astern, never came up again during the fight, as was supposed, for want of wind.

On the 3d, they saw the island Juan Fernandez, bearing south, distant about nine or ten leagues. The wind blew south, right off the land, so that they found it very difficult to get up with it; and a calm coming on, the Cinque Ports put out her oars, and rowed away for the shore; but presently, to their no small astonishment, they saw two ships, each carrying 36 guns. The captains consulted what was to be done, and did not think proper to venture in, but (abandoning the men, boats, and stores,) to make away for the coast of Peru.

These ships, as they learned afterwards, had providentially met with Captain Stradling's boat at sea, with the man and dog in it, and thus the poor fellow was delivered from his most forlorn and dismal situation. They also went in at Juan Fernandez, and took possession of the anchors, cables, boats, and stores of the two ships, with three of Stradling's men and the negro. The other two were left on the island.

March 6, the two English vessels stood away for the coast of Peru, and on the 11th fell in with the land, which was very high, being three ridges of mountains, one above another. They coasted along shore northward, and on the 14th passed by the port of Copiapo. They much wished to have gone ashore here for refreshment, but could not for want of their boats. The land continued very high and mountainous.

On the 29th they were nearly upon the rocks of Ormigas. Having narrowly escaped them, they continued their course to the north, and soon descried two sail. They gave chase, and came up with the sternmost, which proved to be the ship they had already fought with off Juan Fernandez, and was now just off the port of Lima, into which she was bound to trade. They were very anxious to prevent her going in, that the Spaniards might not get intelligence of them. They likewise had no doubt of taking her, because their men, (many of whom were

sick at the time of the engagement) were now all in health. They were also satisfied she must needs be a good prize, with regard to her guns, ammunition, provisions, and other matters they stood in great want of. It was therefore concluded that the St. George should engage her, and the Cinque Ports go after the other, which appeared not so large. But Dampier, being ignorant of her forlorn situation already mentioned, thought it advisable not to venture upon her; and while the matter was in dispute, both the vessels got into port.

The crews were very much discontented, but continued their course to the northward, and the next morning, March 24, saw a sail, and took her without the least resistance. It proved a Spanish ship, of about 150 tons, laden, as far as they could perceive, with snuff, Flanders lace, woollen cloth, silk, pitch, tar, tobacco, turtle shell, bees wax, soap, cinnamon, Jamaica pepper, jars of Balsam of Peru, a few planks, and a pretty good sum of money. They kept her with them till the 30th, and then having taken out a little of every thing, Dampier discharged her, alledging that if she was kept, it would be a hindrance to his greater designs.

The next morning at break of day, they found themselves just aboard a strange ship, which they soon took, not firing above three guns. She was a new vessel of about 200 tons, laden with indigo, cochineal, &c. At this time they were just off the port of Payta.

On the 4th of April, this second prize, after a few odd things had been taken out, was, contrary to most of their minds, dismissed; Dampier assigning as a reason, that he would not cumber up his ship, because he intended to make a voyage, at one stroke, upon some rich town, on which he had a speedy design.

On the 5th, therefore, they began to prepare for this intended action, the carpenter fitting up the two launches, or Spanish long-boats, with two pateraroes to each. On the 11th, being in sight of the island Gallo, they took a bark, laden with plank. She was of about 50 tons, and had a considerable quantity of turtle shell on board. But the men, as soon as ever they saw the English, took to their boat, and got on shore.

April 12, they anchored at Gallo, Dampier intending to keep the bark for the design in hand. Having lain here five days, on the 17th, just as they were going to get up their anchors, they saw a sail standing in for the island. On this they lay still, till she was nearly in, and then all three got under sail, viz. the St.

George, Cinque Ports, and Bark, and took her. She was of about 50 tons, commanded by an half Indian, and was bound for the river Tumaco to get provisions; but passing by Gallo, and seeing the ships, supposed them to be Spanish, and made towards them in order to purchase some for money, but by this unhappy mistake lost their vessel and money too.

From Gallo they kept on to the north, and Dampier acquainted them, that his design was upon the town of Santa Maria, where he had no doubt of getting gold enough, because it is the first place the gold is sent to from the mines, which are not far off. Their last prize sailing very heavily, they sunk it, lest it should prove an hindrance. The captain of her crew, after some fair promises that they would give him a better, and that, if they succeeded in taking Santa Maria, they would satisfy him otherwise to his heart's content, engaged to pilot them up to the town.

Having thus prepared for their intended enterprize, they passed by Cape Corrientes, and the ports of Santa Clara, Quemado, Pinas, and others, and on the 25th of April anchored at Point Garachina, which makes the south point of the gulph of Michael, into which they were bound.

On the 27th, one hundred and two of the men, with Captain Dampier and Captain Stradling, in the bark, with three Spanish launches, left the ships at Point Garachina, under the care of sixty men, with positive orders not to remove till their return. They then proceeded for Santa Maria. Dampier had been here with the Buccaneers in 1680, when they crossed the Isthmus of Darien, and took it. They got no great booty then, but it had now greatly increased, and a Captain Harris had taken 120 pounds of gold there.

At eight at night they anchored among the islands at the river's mouth, because the tide of ebb was making strongly out, and they could not work against it. Here they lay all night, having dark rainy weather, with much thunder and lightning, so that they were all very wet, and spent a most uncomfortable night, there being no shelter from the rain, either in the bark or boats. When day-light returned, as they lay at anchor, the ebb not being done, a canoe with five Indians came within call of them. The Indians asked whence they came. The Indian pilot answered, by Dampier's directions, from Panama; and bid them come on board. They replied, they would not. On this Dampier ordered them to be fired upon, which was done. The Indians now made off as hard as they could, one of the

launches in vain pursuing them. This was of ill consequence, for they were now assured that the Spaniards would be alarmed, ambuscades laid, and valuables carried out of the town. Two of the launches, therefore, were immediately sent away, with twenty-two hands to each, under the command of Stradling, and guided by the Indian pilot, to take the town of Schucadero, on the north bank of the river, about three leagues within its mouth. Dampier, Funnell, and others in the bark, were to follow as soon as the tide served.

Just as the two launches entered Santa Maria river, they saw a canoe with three Indians come out of the river Congo. Upon this they put in, behind a point of land, in the river, just by the entrance; the Indians therefore not having seen them, they were upon them before they suspected any thing, and the English immediately stepped out and seized them. It now getting towards evening, they took one of the Indians into the launch, and sent the other two in the canoe, with five men, to find Schucadero, as Dampier had directed. But it being now quite dark, they could not find it. They could hear the barking of a great many dogs on the southern bank, and concluding there must be some town there, immediately put over. As soon as they approached the town, the two Indians in the canoe for the out-scout, jumped overboard and they lost them. One of the five men snatched his gun, and fired at one of them. Whether he shot him or not they could not tell, but his gun was directly answered by one from the shore.

Upon this they all fired a volley, landed, and advanced to the town, which was near the water-side, and took it without any resistance. The inhabitants had fled at the firing of the first gun, knowing they were not enough to oppose them, having, no doubt, had intelligence by the canoe, which escaped at the river's mouth. They found in the town abundance of fowls, maize, beans, yams, potatoes, parrots, &c. It consisted of about 250 houses. Round the town were great walks of fruit, such as plantains, bananas, &c.

The next morning, April 29th, Stradling sent out the canoe to see what was become of Dampier and the bark. For after Stradling was gone to take the town, as soon as the tide of flood began, the bark got under sail, intending to be after him; but mistaking the river's mouth, ran past it, and finding no other way to get in, came to an anchor, and lay there all night and the next day till the sea breeze at noon. They then met the canoe coming out, which at first they took for an enemy, but soon

discovered their mistake. Stradling's men informed them of their having taken the Indian town, and shewed them a packet of letters they had met with in the canoe. These they opened, and found they were from the President of Panama to the governor of Santa Maria, informing him of a report that 250 English from Jamaica had landed on the north side of the Isthmus, with a design upon Santa Maria, and that 400 soldiers had marched from Panama to assist them seven days ago, and were expected to be at Santa Maria by this time.

They had not finished reading these letters till they were up as high as the Indian town, which they had taken, which they called Schucadero, as well as that on the north side. Here they came to an anchor.

The next afternoon, April 30, the two captains Dampier and Stradling, with three launches and the canoe, having on board eighty-seven men, proceeded up the river for Santa Maria. Clipperton and Funnell, with thirteen hands were left to guard the bark, with orders not to stir till their return. When they were within a quarter of a mile of the town, they were assaulted by three ambuscades, one of their men was killed and another wounded. However they beat the Spaniards out of their hiding places, and would willingly have put on shore. But Dampier advised, that since the Spaniards knew of their coming, and had had time enough to lay ambuscades, it could not be doubted but that they had conveyed their wives and children, and all that was valuable out of the town; which they always do the first thing, when they hear of an enemy. So it was resolved to return to the bark at the Indian town, where they arrived about twelve at night.

Early in the morning, May 1, they left the Indian town, and went down the river, in order to return on board the ships at Point Garachina. They got there on the 6th, and instead of their expected booty, were so scant of provisions, that five green plantains were ordered to be boiled for every six men. But when they were almost at their wits end, to their great comfort, a vessel came and anchored close by them at twelve o'clock at night. They soon got up their anchor and took her, without any resistance. She was a large ship of about 550 tons, deeply laden with flour, sugar, brandy, wine, about 80 tons of marmalade of quinces, a considerable quantity of salt, with some tons weight of linen and woollen cloth; so that they might now supply themselves with provisions for four or five years. Funnell was put on board this prize, in behalf of Captain



Dampier and his company, and Alexander Selkirk, as chief, for Captain Stradling and his company.

They now sunk their bark, and with this great prize stood across the bay of Panama, amongst the King's or Pearl Islands. On the 14th they ran near Tabago, and brought it to bear N. by E. distant three leagues. Here they anchored on purpose to rummage their prize. The four following days they employed in taking provisions out of it, as wine, brandy, sugar, flour, &c. On the 18th a small bark of about 30 tons coming in sight, they sent out the long-boat and canoe, and took it. She had little in her, except a small quantity of money. Captain Stradling kept her for his own use.

Here Dampier and Stradling fell out to such a degree, that they concluded to separate, and gave the men liberty to go in which ever ship they thought proper. In consequence of this, five of Dampier's men went over to Stradling, and five of Stradling's went on board the *St. George*.

They were told by the prisoners that there were 80,000 dollars on board their prize; which were taken in by stealth, and lay at the bottom, in the run of the ship. Dampier did not believe this, and was unwilling to tarry longer, that they might rummage her to the bottom; because he thought loss of time would spoil his greater designs. Having therefore taken out a quantity of provisions, she was dismissed.

On the 19th of May the two ships separated, never to meet again; the *St. George* leaving the *Cinque Ports*. Selkirk thought proper to continue in the latter, having seen so many instances of Dampier's want of conduct, and there being so little prospect of any enterprize succeeding, in which he was engaged.

During the voyage, however, Stradling and Selkirk fell out, and it ended in an irreconcilable difference. This, together with the *Cinque Ports* being in a very crazy and leaky condition, made Selkirk determine to leave him the first opportunity. About the latter end of August or beginning of September, they anchored the second time at *Juan Fernandez*. Here they continued till the end of September, and the difference between him and Selkirk continuing, the latter reflecting upon their past misfortunes and future prospects, determined to sail no farther under a commander so disagreeable to him, especially as the *Cinque Ports* was totally unfit for the seas she had to encounter. The example of Stradling's two men, whom he had left behind, and who had sub-

sisted here six months, and the pleasantness of the spring, which commenced about the time of his arrival, might also have conduced to strengthen his determination.

Continuing in the same mind, his effects were landed; but the instant he saw the vessel putting off, his heart yearned within him, and melted at parting with his comrades and all human society at once. On a sudden his resolution failed him, and he would fain have been taken on board again, but Stradling would not receive him, construing his behaviour into mutiny, and leaving him there by way of punishment.

Captain Stradling made his way northward again, as far as the coast of Barbacora; where they ran the Cinque Ports aground, upon an island, and afterwards surrendered themselves prisoners to the Spaniards in order to save their lives, their vessel being ready to sink.

Forlorn and destitute was Selkirk's situation, whose whole stock of goods, besides the cloaths he had on, consisted only of his seaman's chest. He was in no want of drink, the island abounding with excellent water; but so very small a quantity of provisions for the sustenance of life being allowed him, seems to argue that the Cinque Ports must have been but badly furnished for the voyage. His dejection, however, so overpowered him, that at first, he never eat any thing till hunger constrained him, partly through grief, and partly for want of bread and salt. Nor did he go to bed till he could watch no longer.

When his hunger returned, he was obliged to feed upon seals, and such fish as he could take along the shore, which proved but coarse diet. He judged it most probable that he should find more immediate and easy relief, by finding shell fish on the shore, than seeking game with his gun. He accordingly found great quantities of shell-fish, whose flesh is extremely delicious, and of which he frequently eat very plentifully on his first arrival, till it grew disagreeable to his stomach.

Though he had both flint and steel in his possession he never used them for want of tinder, and his linen was too valuable to be spared. The method he took to obtain fire was by rubbing two sticks of pimento wood together upon his knee. Doubtless he had seen or heard of the Indians doing this.

Being thus enabled to cook, he sometimes boiled and at other times broiled his craw fish, according to his fancy, and found them tolerably palatable even without salt; for want of which he was obliged to desist from other kinds of fish, because they occasioned a flux.

The island abounded with goats, and he shot them as he had occasion, as long as his pound of powder lasted; and it was nearly expended when he hit upon the expedient of kindling fire by rubbing the pimento sticks together. Some of the goats though wounded, frequently made their escape into places where they could scarcely be found. But the fish being coarse diet, and hunger irresistible, he tried all expedients for the support of nature. He used himself to running and scrambling among the rocks, till some of the tender-kids became a prey to him; and by long practice he improved so much, that the most nimble goats could not escape him in their native soil. He knew all the bye-ways and paths on the mountains, could trip from one crag to another, and let himself down the dreadful precipices.

He now made very good broth with his goat's flesh, and sometimes broiled his meat, as he had done his craw-fish. The goats here are not so rank as in England. When his powder failed, he took them by speed of foot, for his way of living, and continual exercise of walking and running, cleared him of all gross humours, so that he ran with wonderful agility through the woods, and up the rocks and hills. When he arrived at his full vigour, he could take at full speed, the swiftest goat running up a promontory, and never failed catching them but on a descent.

He built himself two huts, with the wood of pimento trees, covering them with long grass, and lining them with the skins of goats. The grass grows on the plains and little hills, higher than the usual stature of a man, and produces a straw resembling that of oats.

The largest of these huts, situated on the side of a spacious wood, was his lodging room. His bed was placed on a bedstead of his own contrivance. To defend himself from danger during the night, he built a house of stones, rudely put together. His pimento bed-room was at first greatly infested by cats and rats, which had bred in great numbers from some of each species, which had got on shore from ships, that had put in to wood and water. The rats gnawed his feet and other parts of his body, as well as his clothes, while asleep. To get rid of these formidable invaders, he fed several young kittens with goat's flesh, and after a while they stopped in his room, and lying about the bed, preserved him from the rats. In time many of the cats became so tame, that they would lie about him in hundreds, and put the rats wholly to the rout.

His lodging room was also his chapel, for here he employed himself in reading, singing psalms, and praying. He was in truth a better christian while in his solitude than ever he was before.

The smaller building he called the kitchen, and erected it at some distance from the other. Here he dressed his victuals. The furniture it may well be supposed was not extraordinary, but consisted of every thing that the desert could afford. The spit was his own handy work, of such wood as grew on the island; the rest suitable to the habitation. About it was a parcel of goats he had bred up tame, having taken them when young, which served to supply him upon occasion, when he failed of any wild. There were goats enough, but the difficulty was how to catch them among the rocks and mountains. The trees, whereof there are plenty and a variety, supplied him with spits and store of fuel. The pimento wood, which burnt very clear, served him both for fire and candle, and refreshed him with its fragrant smell.

It was about the beginning of October, 1704, that he commenced his memorable solitude, which being in this southern latitude the height of spring, is exceedingly pleasant, but his melancholy situation deprived him of all its charms. He had much ado to bear up against his dejection, through the terror of being left alone in such a desolate place. The necessities of hunger and thirst were his greatest diversions from reflection on his lonely condition. When these appetites were satisfied, the desire of society was as strong a call upon him, and he appeared to himself least necessitous, when he wanted every thing; for the supports of his body were easily attained, but the eager longings for seeing again the face of man, during the intervals of craving bodily appetites, were hardly supportable. He grew dejected, languid, and melancholy, scarce able to refrain from doing himself violence. Monsters of the deep, which frequently lay upon the shore, added to the terrors of his solitude. The dreadful howlings and voices seemed too terrible for human ears.

Though some sea-lions and seals come on shore at all times of the year, yet in November, Selkirk observed the seals coming up out of the water in such prodigious multitudes, in order to whelp and breed, that the shore was full of them for a stone's throw, so as to render it impossible for him to pass through them. They were so surly, that if he approached them, they would not move out of his way, but run at him, like an angry

dog, notwithstanding he had a stout stick to beat them off. At other times they would make way for him, or he could not have got to the water side. They are about the size of a large mastiff, and have heads like hounds. They have a row of large pointed teeth in each jaw. This threatening appearance is heightened by whiskers like those of cats, or rather tygers. They have two fins, which serve both for swimming, and for walking on the ground. They carry their tail horizontally, and by bending it towards the end, form a kind of hind-foot, and using the fins at the same time, they walk without trailing the body upon the ground. By means of their fins and tails, they also climb up steep rocks, and come down again with ease. When they come out of the sea, they bleat like sheep for their young, which, though they pass through thousands both young and old, find out their own dam to suck, for no other will suffer them. They are fond of lying on shore, but when beaten, make to the sea. A small blow on the nose soon kills them.

In December the summer season began; the heat of which was very moderate, without much thunder or tempestuous weather of any kind. Indeed during the whole time that Mr. Selkirk was here, both summer and winter, he seldom knew the wind to blow off the ocean, except in small breezes, which did not bring in a sea, nor continue two hours, nor did he ever know it to blow in, more than four hours at any time, as he afterwards told Captain Cooke. The wind off shore sometimes blew very strong, and was attended with violent showers of rain. The month of February, he observed, to be the fairest in the year. Indeed the climate is in general so good that the trees and grass are verdant all the year round.

He had now, and at other times, plenty of cabbages, which are very good, and abound in the woods about three miles from the shore, but most of them on the tops of the nearest and lowest mountains. There was some danger indeed in getting at them, the soil being a loose black earth, and the rocks very rotten. Besides which, there are abundance of holes in the ground made by the pardelas, which fall in at once, and endanger the breaking of a person's leg.

Selkirk used to season his meat, with the fruit of the pimento trees, which is the same as Jamaica pepper, and smells deliciously: but in this month he could not have it new, the spice not being ripe. The pimento trees here are in great plenty, and some of them 60 feet high, and about two yards thick.

He had now a store of turnip greens, as the turnips were run to seed. They had been sown, it is said, by Dampier's men, and had overspread some acres of the ground. But, considering the short time since Dampier was there, Cooke's assertion is the most probable, that the first Spanish planters had brought the seed hither. The soil indeed is particularly favourable to turnips. He had also parsnips, and, in the brooks, plenty of water-cresses, which were very refreshing, and good against the scurvy.

March and June the winter season set in, which lasted not in any great degree longer than June or July. Even then it was not very severe, there being only a small frost and a little hail, but sometimes great rains. It is generally ushered in by northerly winds, and in all latitudes beyond forty degrees, it sets even in the beginning of April, and continues longer than in these parts.

Selkirk having now resided here eight months, began to be reconciled to his lot, and his melancholy, by degrees, abated. He diverted himself, sometimes by cutting his name on the trees, and the time of his being left, and continuance there. He had now plenty of turnips, which lasted good till the end of August. His evening companions, the pardelas, retired into their holes under ground, where they slept during the winter.

Spring returned in September: this month is very pleasant, and abounds with good herbs, such as parsley, purslain, sithes in great plenty, and an herb found by the water-side of great use for fomentations. Turnips, sorrel, and cabbage were also in plenty.

October and November were also very pleasant; the air being perfumed with a fragrance, that cherishes and revives the spirits, and has a wonderful effect upon animals, as well as men, which Selkirk remarked by their playfulness and plumpness.

Selkirk's manner of life in time grew so exquisitely pleasant, that he scarce ever had a moment hang heavy upon his hands: his nights were untroubled, and his days joyous, from the practice of temperance and exercise. It was his custom to use stated hours and places for the exercise of devotion, which he performed aloud, in order to keep the faculties of speech, and to utter with greater energy.

The precaution Selkirk took against want, in case of sickness and not being able to go abroad, was to lame kids when very young, so that they might recover their health, but never be capable of speed. These he kept in great numbers about

his habitation, and taught several both of them and his cats, to dance, and sometimes to divert himself, he used to sing and dance with them. He also diverted himself sometimes (says Moore) with contrivances to vary and increase his stock of tools, and sometimes in clear evenings, in counting the stars.

Another amusement was pursuing the goats merely for exercise. During the whole of his residence, he kept an account of about five hundred, which he had killed, and he caught above five hundred more, which he marked in the ear, in order to know them again, and then let them go.

He soon wore out all his shoes and clothes by running through the woods, and not being able to contrive durable shoes, though he had been bred to the business, he was obliged to go barefoot, and in time his feet became so hard that he ran every where without injury. To supply himself with other clothes he dried goat skins, and made himself a coat or jacket, breeches, and a cap. He stitched them together with little thongs of goat's skin, which he cut out with his knife, using a nail as his needle, having no other. Thus dressed, he was inured to pass through woods, bushes, and brambles, with as much carelessness and precipitance as any other animal. Having some linen cloth by him, he made it into shirts, sewing them with a nail, and instead of thread, he used the worsted of his old stockings, which he pulled out on purpose. Walking one day along the shore, he found some iron hoops, which had been left there; and when his knife was worn to the back, he made others as well as he could, beating the pieces of hoop thin, and grinding them upon stones. One of these, which he used as a hatchet or chopper, was about two feet long. Having little to divert his thoughts, he had kept an exact account of the day of the month and week, all the time of his confinement.

On February 1, 1708, the Duke and Dutchess frigates coming up to the island, there appeared a man waving a white flag. Some officers went in the Duke's boat, and coming near the shore, heard Selkirk speak to them in English. They called to him to shew them a good place to come to an anchor, and to land. He gave them directions, and then ran along the shore, in sight of the boat, so swiftly, that the native goats could not have outstripped him. When come to the place, he saluted the new comers with much joy, being satisfied they were English, and they in return, invited him on board. He first enquired whether a certain officer, that he knew, was with them, and bearing that he was, he appeared displeas'd, till inform'd that

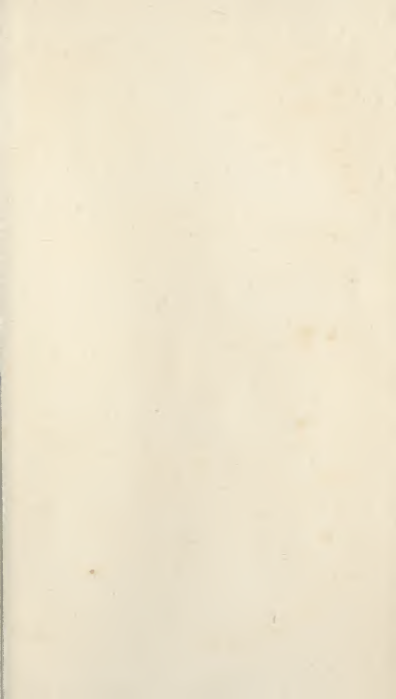
he did not command. The Officers who were in the boat then went ashore, and he invited them to his habitation. The way to it was very much hid and uncouth. Only Captain Fry bore him company. Having, with much difficulty, climbed up and crept down many rocks, he came at last into a pleasant spot of ground, full of grass, and furnished with trees, where he saw two small huts indifferently built, the one being the lodging-room, and the other the kitchen.

Selkirk accompanied them in their pinnace, and they brought with them abundance of craw-fish. At this time he had his last shirt on. At his first coming on board, he had so much forgot his language, for want of use, that they could scarce understand him, for he seemed to speak his words by halves. They offered him a dram, but he would not touch it, having drank nothing but water since his being on the island; and it was some time before he could relish their victuals. Capt. Rogers agreed with him to be a mate on board the ship. They did not get to anchor till six at night, February 1, when it fell calm: they rowed and towed into the anchor ground about a mile off shore, 45 fathom water, clean sandy ground.

February 2, they cleared up ship and bent their sails, and got them ashore to mend, and make tents for their sick men. Selkirk ran with wonderful swiftness up the rocks and hills, when they employed him. They had a bull-dog, which they sent with several of their nimblest runners, to help him in catching goats: but he distanced and tired both the dog and the men, caught the goats, and brought them on his back. It was some time before he could wear shoes; for not being used to any so long, his feet swelled, when he came to put them on.

After various exploits, they arrived at Batavia, June 8th. The three ships weighed from Batavia road, October 12, and on the 17th, got to the watering place at Java head, from whence they sailed on the 23d, and anchored at the Cape of Good Hope, December 28, where they refitted. May 14, they crossed the equator. On the 23d, they anchored at Texel, and after an absence of eight years, one month, and three days, Selkirk arrived in England, where he was visited and caressed by persons of the first distinction.







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