No. 7

John Gyles

Memoirs of Odd Adventures.

Boston, 1736

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April, 1936

MEMOIRS

OF

ODD ADVENTURES,

Strange Deliverances, &c.

In the Captivity of

JOHN GYLES, Esq;

Commander of the Garrison on *St. George's River*.

Written by Himself.

Forgetful Youth! but know, the Power above
With ease can save each Object of his Love;
Wide as his Will, extends his boundless Grace;
Nor lost by Time, nor circumscrib'd by Place.
Happier his Lot, who many sorrows past,
Long-lab'ring, gains his natal Shore at last;
Than who too speedy, hastes to end his Life
By some Stern Ruffian,—

Homer's Odyss.

BOSTON, in *N. E.*

Printed and Sold by S. Kneeland and T. Green, in Queen-street, over against the Prison. MDCCXXXVI.

be best to
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[illegible] to have retir'd to his Farm, but on his Arrival at Boston, *the [illegible] ostilities. He therefore began a Settle-[illegible] of that Place not so well agreeing with his Constitution, a[illegible]us being peaceable, he again proposed to re-settle his Lands in [illegible]y-meeting-Bay; but finding that Place deserted, and that Plantatio[illegible]e carried on at* Pemmaquid; *he purchased several Tracts of Land of the Inhabitants there. Upon his Highness the Duke of* York's *resuming a Claim to those Parts, he also took out Patents upon that Claim; And when* Pemmaquid *was set off by the Name of the County [illegible]nwal in the Province of* New-York, *he was Commissionated Chief [illegible]ities of the same, by Governour* Duncan. *He was a strict Sabbatarian, and met with considerable Difficulties in the Discharge of his Office, from the Immoralities of a People who had long lived Lawless. He laid out no inconsiderable Income which he had annually from* England *on the Place, [illegible] lost his Life there, as hereafter related.*

[illegible]e insensible of the Truth of an Assertion of Sir Roger L'Estrange, *[illegible]ks and Dishes have this common Fate; there never was any [illegible] either of them, that pleased all Palates: (And am fully of his [illegible]in this) "It is as little to be wished for, as expected; for an [illegible]universal Applause is at least two thirds of a Scandal."*

[illegible]nclude with the Knight. "Tho' I made this Composition princi[illegible]ly for my Family --- *Yet, if any Man has a Mind to take pa[illegible]th me, he has free leave and welcome. But let him carry this Con[illegible]ion along with him,* "That he is a very unmannerly Guest, [illegible]refles upon another Man's Table, and then Quarrels with his [illegible]r.

Of Odd Adventures and Signal Deliverances in the Captivity of *John Gyles*, Esq;

CHAP. I.

Containing the Occurrences of the first Year.

SECT. I. Of the taking the Family of *Thomas Gyles*, Esq;

y of *August*, *Anno* the Morning, my er *Thomas Gyles*, some Labourers, Brothers and my his Farms, which r about three Miles *arles* †, adjoining *Falls*; there to ga- glish Harvest, and ly till Noon. But their Labour, some nglish Hay, the others to another

† *Fort-Charles* stood on the Spot where *Frederick's-Fort* was, not long since, founded by the Hon. Col. DUNBAR: The Township adjoining thereto was called *James-Town*, in honour to the Duke of *York*: In this Town within a quarter of a Mile of the Fort was the Dwelling House of *Thomas Gyles*, Esq; from which he went out that unhappy Morning.

Council had sent back the Soldiers, to cover the Inhabitants: for on Report of the Revolution they had deserted: But to our great Surprize about Thirty or Forty Indians discharged a Volley of Shot at us, from behind a rising Ground near our Barn. * The Yelling of the Indians, the Whistling of their Shot, and the Voice of my Father, whom I heard cry out, What now! What now! so terrified me; tho' he seem'd to be handling a Gun, that I endeavoured to make my Escape. My Brother ran one way and I another; and looking over my Shoulder, I saw a stout Fellow, painted, pursuing me with a Gun; and a Curtlass glittering in his Hand, which I expected every Moment in my Brains: I presently fell down, and the Indian took me by the Left Hand, offered me no abuse, but seized my Arms, lift me up, and pointed to the Place where the People were at Work about the Hay; and lead me that way. As we passed, we crossed my Father, who looked very pale and bloody, and walked very slowly. When we came to the Place, I saw two Men shot down on the Flatts, and one or two more knock'd on the Head with Hatchets, crying out, O Lord, &c! there the Indians brought two Captives, one Man, and my Brother *James*, he that endeavoured to escape by running from the House, when I did †. After they had done what Mischief they could, sat down, making us sit with them: and after some time arose, pointing to us to go Eastward. They march'd about a quarter of a Mile and then made a Halt, and brought my Father to us: and made Proposals to him by old *Moxus*, who told him that

* The Indians have a Custom of uttering a most horrid Howl, when they discharge Guns, designing thereby to terrify those whom they fight against.

† He was about Fourteen Years of Age. The eldest Brother whose Name was *Thomas*, wonderfully escaped by Land to the *Barbacan* (a Point of Land on the West Side of the River opposite to the Fort,) where several Fishing Vessels lay, he got on board one of them and came to Sail that Night.

they

into several Parties, some Ambushing the Way between the Fort and the Houses, as likewise between them and the distant Fields; and then alarming the farthest off first, they kill'd and took the People, as they moved toward the Town and Fort, at their Pleasure; so that very few escaped to the Fort. Mr. *Pateshall* was taken and kill'd as he lay with his Sloop near the *Barbican*. On the first stir about the Fort my youngest Brother was at Play near the same, and ran in, and so by God's Goodness was preserved. Capt. *Weems* with great Courage & Resolution defended the weak old

old Fort two Days, till that he was much Wounded and the best of his Men Kill'd, and then Beat up a Parley. And the Conditions were,

1. That they, the Indians should give him Mr. *Pateshall's* Sloop.

2 That they should not molest him in carrying off the few People that had got into the Fort, and three Captives that they had taken.

3 That the English should carry off in their Hands what they could from the Fort.

On these Conditions the Fort was Surrendred, and Capt. *Weems* went off. And soon after the Indians set on Fire the Fort & Houses: which made a terrible Blast, and was a melancholly Sight to us poor Captives, who were sad Spectators!

SECT. III. Of the Transportation of the Captives to *Penobscot*, the nearest Indian-Village Eastward of *Pemmaquid*.

After the Indians had thus laid Waste *Pemmaquid*, they moved us all to *New-Harbour* *. And when we turned our Backs on the Town my Heart was ready to break!--- I saw my Mother; she spake to me, but I could not answer her! That Night we tarried at *New-Harbour*, and the next Day went in their Canoes for *Penobscot*. About Noon, the Canoe which my Mother, and that which I was in, came side by side: whether accidental or by my Mother's desire, I cannot say. She asked me, How I did? I think I said, Pretty well, (tho' my Heart was full of Grief). Then she said, O, my Child! how joyful & pleasant would it be, if we were going to *Old England*, to see your Uncle *Chalker*, and other Friends there? ---Poor Babe! we are going into the Wilderness, the Lord knows where!--- She burst into Tears, and the Canoes parted! That Night following the Indians with their Captives lodged on an Island. A few days after, we arrived at *Penobscot-Fort*; where I again saw my Mother, my Brother and Sisters, and many other Captives. I think, we tarried here eight Days: and in that time the Jesuit had a great mind to buy me. My Indian Master

* *New Harbour* is about two Miles East of *Pemmaquid*, a small Harbour, much used by Fishermen. Before the War there were about twelve Houses, but the rumour of War, disposed them to secure themselves, by forsaking their Habitations.

made

and my two little Sisters were, after several Years Captivity redeem'd; she died before I returned: And my Brother who was taken with me, was after several Years Captivity most barbarously tortured to Death, by the Indians]. For

My Indian Master carried me up *Penobscot River* to a Village called *Madawamkee*: which stands on a Point of Land, between the Main River, and a Branch which heads to the East of it At Home I had ever seen Strangers treated with the utmost Civility, and being a Stranger, I expected some kind Treatment here: but soon found my self deceived, for I presently saw a Number of Squaws got together in a Circle dancing and yelling; and an old grimace-Squaw took me by the Hand, and lead me to the Ring, where the other Squaws seiz'd me by the Hair of my Head, and by my Hands and Feet, like so many Furies: but my Indian Master presently laid down a Pledge and releas'd me. A Captive among the Indians is exposed to all manner of Abuse, and to the utmost Tortures; unless his Master, or some of his Master's Relations, lay down a Ransom, such as a Bag of Corn, or a Blanket, or such like: by which they may redeem them from their Cruelties for that Dance, so that he shall not be touch'd by any.

SECT. IV. Of the Occurrences in my passing from *Penobscot* to *St. John's*, where the next Eastern Tribe have their Rendezvous.

Their Custom of Torturing Captives, and of redeeming them from Abuses at Dances.

† The Indian that takes and will keep a Captive is accounted his Master, and the Captive his Property till he give or sell him to another.

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Sect. V. of my Treatment at my Arrival at *Medoctack* on *St. John's River.*

After some Miles travel we came in sight of a large Corn-Field, and soon after of the Fort, to my great Surprize: for two or three Squaws met us, took off my Pack, and lead me to a large Hutt or Wigwam, where Thirty or Forty Indians were dancing and yelling round five or six poor Captives, who had been taken some Months before from *Quechecho*, at the same time when Major *Waldein* was most barbarously butchered by them *. I was whirl'd in among

‖ *Medoctack River.*

‡ A Carrying-Place is a Path or Trank in which they pass from one River, or part of a River or Pond to another: 'tis so called, because the Indians are obliged to carry their Baggage over them.

* Major *Waldein* was taken in the beginning of *April* on the Night after a Sabbath. I have heard the Indians say at a Feast, that there being a Truce for some Days, they contriv'd to send in two Squaws to take Notice of the Numbers, Lodgings and other Circumstances of the People in his Garrison, and if they could obtain leave to Lodge there, to open the Gates and Whistle. [They said the Gates had no Locks, but were fastned with Pins, and that they kept no Watch there] The Squaws had a favourable Season to prosecute their Projection, for it was dull Weather when they came, and begg'd leave to Lodge in the Garrison: they told the Major that a great Number of Indians were not far from them, with considerable Quantities of Beaver, who would Trade with him the next Day &c. Some of the People were very much against their Lodging in the Garrison, but the Major said, Let the poor Creatures Lodge by the Fire! The Squaws went into every Apartment, and observed the Numbers in each, and when the People were all asleep, rose and opened the Gates, and gave the Signal, and the other Indians came

among them, and we look'd on each other with a sorrowful Countenance: and presently [illegible] each Hand & Foot, by four [illegible] and let his Back with Force fa[illegible] they had danced (as they call[illegible] wam, which was thirty or f[illegible] when they torture a Boy, they [illegible] This is one of their Customs o[illegible] ther is to take up a Person by [illegible] downwards, and jolt him rou[illegible] Bowels would shake out of h[illegible] will take a Captive by the Ha[illegible] forward, and strike him on th[illegible] Blood gush out of his Mouth & Nose. Sometimes an old shrivell'd Squaw will take up a Shovel of hot Embers and throw them into a Captive's Bosom; and if he cry out, the other Indians will Laugh and Shout, and say, What a brave Action our old Grandmother has done! Sometimes they torture them with Whips &c.

[illegible]eir man- [illegible] of tor- [illegible]ning Cap- [illegible]es.

The Indians look'd on me with a fierce Countenance, signifying that it would be my turn next. They champ'd Corn-Stalks, and threw them in my Hat, which was in my Hand: I smiled on them, tho' my Heart ak'd. I look'd on one and another, but could not perceive that any Eye pitied me: Presently came a Squaw and a little Girl,

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came to them, and having receiv'd an Account of the State of the Garrison, they divided according to the Number of People in each Apartment, and soon took and kill'd them all. The Major lodged within an inner Room, and when the Indians broke in upon him, he cried out, What now! What now! jumpt out of Bed in his Shirt, and drave them out with his Sword thro' two or three Doors: and as he was returning to his Apartment, an Indian came behind him, and knock'd him on the Head with his Hatchet, stun'd him, and hal'd him out, and set him upon a long Table in his Hall, and bid him, Judge Indians again. Then they cut and stab'd him, and he cry'd out, O Lord! O Lord!--- They bid him order his Book of Accompts to be brought, and cross out all the Indian Debts (for he had traded much with the Indians) and after they had tortured him to Death, they burned the Garrison and drew off. This Narration I heard from their Mouths at a general Meeting; and have Reason to think it true. And it should be a Warning to all Persons who have the Care of Garrisons: For the greatest Losses we meet with are for want of due Caution and Circumspection.

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SECT. VI. After some Weeks had past we left the Village, and went up *St. John's River* about ten Miles to a Branch called *Medackstenecasis*, where there was one Wigwam. At our Arrival an old Squaw saluted me with a Yell, taking me by the Hair and one Hand; but I was so rude as to break her hold, and 'quit my self: ---She gave me a filthy Grin, and the Indians set up a Laugh---so it pass'd over. Here we lived upon Fish, Wild-Grapes, Roots &c. which was hard Living to me.

SECT. VII. The first Winter's Hunting. When the Winter came on, we went up the River till the Ice came down, and run thick in the River; and then, according to the Indian Custom, laid up our Canoes till the Spring; and then travell'd sometimes on the Ice, & sometimes on the Land, till we came to a River that was open and not Fordable, where we made a Raft, and pass'd over Bag and Baggage *. I met with no Abuse from them in this Winter's Hunting, tho' I was put to great Hardships in carrying Burdens, and for want of Food: for they underwent the same Difficulty, and would often encourage me,

* For the Indians carry their House and Houshold Stuff on their Backs in the Winter, and to these they add, in the Summer, their Vessels and Furniture, Provisions &c.

saying

to get it out, he pull'd the Thigh Bone out of the Socket at the Hip: Thus extraordinarily were we provided for in our great Strait. Sometimes they would take a Bear, which go into Dens in the Fall of the Year without any sort of Food, and lie there without any four or five Months, never going out till the Spring of the Year: in which Time they neither lose nor gain in Flesh; if they went into their Dens Fat, they will come out so, or if they went in Lean, they will come out Lean. I have seen some that have come out, with four Whelps, and both Old & Young very fat †, and then we feasted: and an old Squaw, and Captive, if any present, must stand without the Wigwam, shaking their Hands and Body as in a Dance: and singing, WEGAGE OH NELO WOH! which if Englished would be, *Fat is my Eating*. This is to signify their thankfulness in feasting Times! and when this was spent, we fasted till further Success.

The way of their preserving Meat is by stripping off the Flesh from the Bones, and drying them over a Smoke; by which 'tis kept sound Months or Years, without Salt.

We moved still further up the Country after Moose when our Store was out: so that by the Spring we had got to the Northward of the *Lady Mountains*. And when the Spring came on and the Rivers broke up, we moved back to the Head of *St.-John's River*; and there made Canoes of Moose-Hides sewing three or four together, and pitching the Seams with Charcoal beaten and mixt with Balsom. Then we went down the River to a Place call'd *Madawescok*; there an Old Man lived and kept a sort of Trading-House: where we tarried several Days, and went farther down the River till we came to the greatest Falls in these Parts, called *Checanekepeag*: where we carried a little way over the Land, and putting off our Canoes, we went down Stream still: And as we pass'd down by the Mouth of any large Branches, we saw Indians: but when any Dance

† *Guillim* in his Heraldry mentions it as the Opinion of some Naturalists, that they bring forth an Unform'd Embryo, and lick their Litter into Shape: -- a gross Mistake! I have seen their Fœtus of all Sizes, taken out of the Matrix, by the Indians, and they are as much, and as well Shap'd as the Young of any Animal.

was

was proposed, I was bought off. At length we arrived at the Place, where we left our Birch Canoes in the Fall, and put our Baggage into them, and went in them down to the Fort.

There we planted Corn; and after Planting, went a Fishing, and to look for and dig Roots; till the Corn was fit to Weed: and after Weeding took a second Tour on the same Errand, and return'd to F[illegible] Corn; and after Hilling, we went some distance [illegible] e Fort & Field up the River, to take Salmon, and [illegible] Fish, and dry them for Food till Corn was fill'd w[illegible] Milk; Some of which we dried then, the other as[illegible]d. And when we had gathered our Corn and drie[illegible] e put some into Indian Barns, i. e. in Holes in the Ground lin'd & cover'd with Bark, and then with Dirt. The rest we carried up the River upon our next Winter-Hunting Thus GOD wonderfully favoured me and carried me through the first Year of my Captivity.

SECT. VIII Of the manner of the St. John's Indians living in the Summer.

CHAP. II.

Of the abusive and barbarous Treatment which several Captives met with from the Indians &c.

WHen any great Number of Indians meet, or when any Captives have been lately taken, or when any Captives desert and are retaken, the Indians have a Dance; and at these Dances torture the unhappy People who fall into their Hands. My unfortunate Brother who was taken with me, after about three Years Captivity, deserted with

SECT. I. Of my Brother's Torture

‖ When the Corn is in the Milk they gather a large Kettle full and boil it on the Ears till its pretty hard, and then take it up and shell it of the Cobb with Clam-Shells, and dry it on Bark in the Sun; and when it's thro'ly dryed, a Kernel is no bigger than a Pea, and would keep Years: and boil'd again it swells as large, and tastes incomparably sweeter than other Corn.

an

an Englishman who was taken from *Casco-Bay*, and was retaken by the Indians at *New-Harbour* and carried back to *Penobscot Fort* : where they were both tortured at a Stake by Fire for some time, then their Noses and Ears were cut off, and they made to eat them ; after which they were burned to Death at the Stake : The Indians at the same time declaring that they would serve all Deserters in the same manner. Thus they divert themselves in their Dances!

SECT. II. Of their Barbarity to *James Alexander*, &c.

On the second Spring of my Captivity my Indian Master and his Squaw went to *Canada* ; but sent me down the River, with several Indians to the Fort ; in order to plant Corn. The Day before we came to the Planting Field we met two Young Indian Men who seem'd to be in great haste : after they had pass'd us I understood that they were going with an Express to *Canada*, and that there was an English Vessel at the Mouth of the River. I not perfect in the Language, nor knowing that English Vessels traded with them in time of War, supposed a Peace was concluded on, and that the Captives would be released : and was so transported with the Fancy, that I slept but little, if at all, that Night. Early the next Morning we came to the Village, where the Extasy ended : For I had no sooner Landed, but three or four Indians drag'd me to the great Wigwam, where they were yelling and dancing round *James Alexander*, a Jersey Man, who was taken from *Falmouth* in *Casco Bay*. This was occasioned by two Families of *Cape Sable* Indians, who having lost some Friends by a number of English Fishermen, came some hundred of Miles to revenge themselves on the poor Captives! They soon came to me, & tossed me about till I was almost breathless, & then threw me into the Ring to my fellow Captive : and took him out again, and repeated their Barbarities to him. And then I was hal'd out again by three Indians, by the Hair of my Head, and held down by it, till one beat me on the Back & Shoulders so long that my Breath was almost beat out of my Body. And then others put a Tomhake into my Hand, and order'd me get up and dance and sing Indian : which I perform'd with the greatest reluctance, and in the Act seem'd resolute to purchase my Death, by killing two or three of those Monsters of Cruelty; thinking

thinking it impossible to survive their bloody Treatment; but it was impress'd on my Mind, *'Tis not in their Power to take away your Life*: so I desisted. Then those *Cape Sable* Indians came to me again like Bears bereaved of their Whelps, saying, *Shall we who have lost Relations by the English, suffer an English Voice to be heard among us* &c. .. Then they beat me again with the Axe: Then I repented that I had not sent two or three of them out of the World before me, for I tho't that I had much rather die than suffer any longer. They left me the second time, and the other Indians put the Tomhake || into my Hand again, and compelled me to sing: and then I seem'd more resolute than before to destroy some of them; but a strange and strong Impulse that I should return to my own Place & People, suppress'd it as often as such a motion rose in my Breast. Not one of the Indians shew'd the least Compassion: but I saw the Tears run down plentifully on the Cheeks of a Frenchman that sat behind; which did not alleviate the Tortures that poor *James* and I were forced to endure for the most part of this tedious Day; for they were continued till the Evening: and were the most severe that ever I met with in the whole six Years that I was Captive with the Indians. --- After they had thus inhumanely abused us, two Indians took us up and threw us out of the Wigwam, and we crawled away on our Hands & Feet, & were scarce able to walk, &c. for several Days. Some time after they again concluded on a merry Dance, when I was at some distance from the Wigwam dressing Leather, and an Indian was so kind as to tell me that they had got *James Alexander*, and were in search for me. My Indian Master and his Squaw bid me run as for my Life into a Swamp and hide, and not to discover my self unless they both came to me, for then I might be assured the Dance was over. I was now master of their Language, and a Word or a Wink was enough to excite me to take care of One. I ran to the Swamp, and hid in the thickest place that I could find. I heard hollowing and whooping all around me; sometimes they pass'd very near,

|| The Tomhake is a Warlike Club, the Shape of which may be seen in Cutts of *Etowolkoam*, one of the four Indian Chiefs, which Cutts are common amongst us.

and I could hear some threaten, and others flatter me, but I was not dispos'd to dance: and if they had come upon me, I resolv'd to show them a pair of Heels, and they must have had good luck to have catch'd me. I heard no more of them till about Evening [for I think I slept] when they came again, calling *Chon, Chon*, but *John* would not trust them. After they were gone, my Master and his Squaw came where they told me to hide, but could not find me; and when I heard them say with some concern, that they believ'd that the other Indians had frightned me into the Woods, and that I was lost; I came out, and they seem'd well pleas'd; and told me, that *James* had had a bad Day of it; that as soon as he was releas'd he ran away into the Woods, & they believ'd he was gone to the *Mohawks*. *James* soon returned, & gave me a melancholly Account of his Sufferings: and the Indians fright concerning the *Mohawks* pass'd over. They often had terrible apprehension of the Incursion of the *Mohawks* *. One very hot Season a great Number gathered together at the Village; and being a very droughty People, they kept *James* and my self Night and Day fetching Water from a Cold Spring, that ran out of a rocky Hill about three Quarters of a Mile from the Fort. In going thither, we cross'd a large Interval-Corn-Field, and then a Descent to a lower Interval before we ascended the Hill to the Spring. *James* being almost dead as well as I, with this continual Fatigue, contriv'd to fright the Indians: he told me of it, but conjur'd me to Secrecy, yet said, he knew that I could keep Counsel. The next dark Night *James* going for Water, set his Kettle on the descent to the lowest Interval; and ran back to the Fort, puffing & blowing, as in the utmost Surprize; and told his Master that he saw something near the Spring, that look'd like *Mohawks*: [which he said were only Stumps—aside] his Master being a most couragious Warrior, went with *James* to make discovery, and when they came to the brow of the Hill, *James* pointed to the Stumps, and withal touch'd his Kettle with

A little Comedy with your Tragedy.

* These are called also *Maquas*, a most ambitious, haughty and blood thirsty People: from whom the other Indians take their Measures and Manners: and their Modes and Changes of Dress &c.

his

his Toe, which gave it motion down Hill, and at every turn of the Kettle the Bail clattered; upon which *James* and his Master could see a *Mohawk* in every Stump on motion, *and turn'd Tail to*, and he was the best Man that could run fastest. This alarm'd all the Indians in the Village. They tho' about thirty or forty in number, pack'd off Bag and Baggage, some up the River and others down: and did not return under fifteen Days, and the heat of the Weather being finely over, our hard Service abated for this Season. I never heard that the Indians understood the Occasion of the Fright, but *James* and I had many a private Laugh about it.

SECT. III. Of *John Evans*'s his Difficulties and Death &c.

But my most intimate and dear Companion was one *John Evans*, a Young Man taken from *Quochecho*. We as often as we could, met together, and made known our Grievances to each other, which seem'd to ease our Minds: but when it was known by the Indians, we were strictly examined apart, and falsely accused, that we were contriving to desert; but we were too far from the Sea to have any tho't of that: and when they found that our Story agreed, we received no Punishment. An English Captive Girl about this time, (who was taken by *Medocawando*) would often falsely accuse us of plotting to desert, but we made the Truth so plainly appear, that she was check'd and we released. But the third Winter of my Captivity, he went into the Country, and the Indians imposed a heavy Burden on him, tho' he was extream Weak with long Fasting: and as he was going off the Upland over a Place of Ice which was very hollow he broke thro', fell down & cut his Knee very much, notwithstanding he travelled for some time: but the Wind and Cold were so forceable, that they soon overcame him, and he sat or fell down, & all the Indians pass'd by him: some of them went back the next Day after him, or his Pack, and found him, with a Dog in his Arms, both froze as stiff as a Stake. And all my fellow Captives, were dispersed and dead: but thro' infinite & unmerited Goodness I was supported under, and carried thro' all Difficulties.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of further Difficulties and Deliverances.

SECT. I. Of a near escape from Death by Frost.

ONE Winter as we were moving from Place to Place, our Hunters kill'd some Moose; and one lying some Miles from our Wigwams, a Young Indian & my self were ordered to fetch part of it. We set out in the Morning when the Weather was promising, but it proved a very Cold, Cloudy Day. It was late in the Evening we arrived at the Place where the Moose lay: so that we had no time to provide Materials for Fire or Shelter. At the same time a Storm came on very thick of Snow, and continued till the next Morning. We made a small Fire with what little Rubbish we could find around us, which with the heat of our Bodies melted the Snow upon us as fast as it fell, and fill'd our Cloaths with Water. Nevertheless, early in the Morning, we took our Loads of Moose-Flesh, and set out, in order to return to our Wigwams: We had not travelled far before my Moose-Skin Coat (which was the only Garment that I had on my Back, and the Hair was in most Places worn off) was froze stiff round my Knees like a Hoop, as likewise my Snow-shoes & Shoe-clouts to my Feet! Thus I march'd the whole Day without Fire or Food! at first I was in great Pain, then my Flesh numb'd, and I felt at times extream Sick, and tho't I could not travel one foot further; but wonderfully reviv'd again. After long travelling I felt very drowsy, & had thoughts of setting down; which had I done, without doubt I had fall'n on my final Sleep; as my dear Companion, *Evans*, had done before; for my Indian Companion, being better Cloath'd, had left me long before: but again my Spirits reviv'd as much as if I had receiv'd the richest Cordial! Some Hours after Sun-set I recovered the Wigwam, and crawl'd in with my Snow-shoes on. The Indians cry'd out, *The Captive is froze to Death!* They took off my Pack, and where that lay against my Back was the only Place that was not frozen. The Indians cut off my Shoes, and stript the Clouts from my Feet, which were as void of feeling as any frozen Flesh could be: but I had not sat long by the Fire, before the Blood began to circulate,

By the Fall of a Scaffold on my Head.

a large Moose into the River and kill'd him ; and brought the Flesh to the Village, and laid it on a Scaffold in a large Wigwam, in order to make a Feast. I was very officious in supplying them with Wood & Water, which pleased them so well, that they now & then gave me a piece of Flesh half boil'd or roasted, which I did eat with eagerness: and I doubt without great Thankfulness to the divine BEING, who so extraordinarily fed me ! ---At length the Scaffold broke, and one large Piece fell and knock'd me on the Head [the Indians said that I lay stun'd a considerable time] the first

I was sensible of was a murmuring Noise in my Ears, then my Sight gradually return'd, with an extream Pain in my Head, which was very much bruised, and it was long before I recovered, the Weather being very Hot.

SECT. III. --from drowning by the oversetting of a Canoe.

I was once with an Indian fishing for Sturgeon, the Indian darting one, his Feet slipt and turn'd the Canoe bottom upwards, with me under it; holding fast the Cross-bar (for I could not Swim) with my Face to the bottom of the Canoe. my self and bro't my Breast to bear on the xpecting every Minute, that the Indian wou'd ie to the Bank: *But he had other Fish to Fry!* ued a quarter of an Hour without want of ling for Bottom, till the Current drove me on it, where I could reach Bottom; there I stop'd my Canoe. I look'd for the Indian, and he ile distant up the River. I went to him, and e did not tow me to the Bank, seeing he knew not Swim? He said he knew that I was un-, for there were no Bubbles any where to be seen, & that I should drive on the Point: therefore he took care of his fine Sturgeon, which was eight or ten Feet long.

SECT. IV. Another Instance of preservation from drowning.

---Fishing for Salmon at the Fall of about fifteen Feet of Water, there being a deep Hole at the foot of the Fall; the Indians went into the Water to wash themselves, & asked me to go in with them. I told them that I could not Swim. They bid me strip [which was done] and dive across the deepest Place, and if I fell short of the other side, they said they would help me. But instead of diving across the narrowest, I was crawling on the bottom into the deepest Place: but not seeing me rise, and knowing where-abouts I was, by the bubling of the Water; a young Girl, dove into the Water, and seizing me by the Hair of my Head, drew me out: otherwise I had perished in the Water †.

† Tho' both Male and Female may be in the Water at a Time, they have each of them more or less of their Cloaths on, and behave with the utmost Chastity and Modesty.

While

While at the Indian Village, I had been cutting Wood, and was binding it up with an Indian-Rope in order to carry it to the Wigwam, when a stout, ill-natur'd young Fellow about 20 Years of Age, threw me backward, sat on my Breast, and pulling out his Knife, said that he would kill me, for he had never yet kill'd an English Person. I told him that he might go to War, and that would be more Manly, than to kill a poor Captive who was doing their Drudgery for them: Notwithstanding all that I could say, he began to cut & stab me on my Breast. I seiz'd him by the Hair, & tumbled him from off me on his Back, & follow'd him with my Fist and Knee so, that he presently said he had enough; but when I saw the Blood run & felt the Smart, I at him again and bid him get up and not lie there like a Dog,---told him of his former Abuses offered to me & other poor Captives, and that if ever he offered the like to me again, I would pay him double. I sent him before me, took up my Burden of Wood, & came to the Indians and told them the whole Truth; and they commended me: And I don't remember that ever he offered me the least Abuse afterward; tho' he was big enough to have dispatched two of me. I pray GOD! I may never be forgetful of his wonderful Goodness! and that these Instances may excite others in their Adversities to make their Addresses to the Almighty; and put their Confidence in Him in the use of proper Means.

SECT. V. Of my preservation from being Murdered.

CHAP. IV.

Of remarkable Events of Providence in the Deaths of several barbarous Indians.

THE Priest of this River, was of the order *St. Francis*, a Gentleman of a humane, generous Disposition: in his Sermons he most severely reprehended the Indians for their Barbarities to the Captives: he would often tell them, that, excepting their Errors in Religion, the English were a better People than themselves; and that God would remarkably punish such cruel Wretches, and had begun to execute

SECT. I. The Deaths of those Savage *Cape-Sable* Indians mentioned. Ch. II. Sect. II.

execute his Vengeance upon such! He gave an Account of the Retaliations of Providence to those murderous *Cape-Sable* Indians above mentioned. One of whom ran a Splinter into his Foot, which fester'd and rotted his Flesh till it kill'd him. Another ran a Fish-bone into her Hand or Arm, and she rotted to Death, notwithstanding all Means that were used. In some such manner they all died, so that not one of those two Families lived to return home. Were it not for this Remark of the Priest, I should not, perhaps, have made the Observation.

SECT. II. Of a Barbarous Old Squaw.

There was an old Squaw who ever endeavoured to out-do all others in Cruelty to Captives. Where-ever she came into a Wigwam, where any poor naked starved Captives were sitting near the Fire; if they were grown Persons, she would privately take up a Shovel of hot Coals, & throw them into their Bosom; or Young Ones, she would take by the Hand or Leg, and drag them thro' the Fire &c. The Indians according to their Custom left their Village in the Fall of the Year and dispersed themselves for Hunting, and after the first or second removal, they all strangely forgat that old Squaw and her Grandson about Twelve Years of Age. They were found dead in the Place where they were left, some Months afterward, and no further notice taken of them. This was very much observed by the Priest; and seem'd strange to all that heard it, for the Indians were generally very careful not to leave their Old or Young!

SECT. III. Of a Plague among them.

In the latter part of Summer, or beginning of Autumn, the Indians were frequently frighted by the Appearance of strange Indians passing up & down this River in Canoes, and about that Time the next Year died more than One Hundred Persons of Old & Young: all or most of those that saw those strange Indians! The Priest said, that it was a sort of Plague. A Person seeming in perfect Health, would bleed at the Mouth & Nose, turn blue in Spots, and die in two or three Hours. [It was very tedious to me who was forced to move from Place to Place this cold Season. The Indians applied red Oker to my Sores, which by GOD's Blessing cured me.] The Indians all scattered, it being at the

with them in their Powawing, to whom I manifested an earnest desire to see their Management: She told me, that if they knew of my being there, they would kill me, and that when she was a Girl, she had known Young Persons to be taken away by an hairy Man: and therefore she would not advise me to go, left the hairy Man should carry me away. I told her that I was not afraid of that hairy Man, nor could he hurt me if she would not discover me to the Powaws. At length she promised that she would not, but charged me to be careful of my self.—I went within three or four Feet of the Hot-House, for it was very dark, and heard strange

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the Devil was permitted to humour those unhappy Wretches sometimes, in some things.

SECT. II. An Instance of the Devil's frighting the Indians.

An Indian being some Miles from his Wigwam, and the Weather being warm, he supposed the Hedge-Hogs would come out of their Den, he way-laid the Mouth of it till late at Night. [See Chap. 6. Sect. 3.] They not coming out as usual, he was going home, but had not passed far, before he saw a Light like a Blaze, at a little distance before him, and darting his Spear at it, it disappeared; then on the Bank of the River, he heard a loud Laughter, with a noise like a ratling in a Man's Throat. The Indian rail'd at the Demon whom he suppos'd made the Noise, calling it a rotten Spirit of no Substance &c. He continued to hear the Noise

Noise and see the Light 'till he came into the Wig[illegible]m, which he entred, in his hunting Habit, with Snow-sho[illegible] all on; so frighted, that, it [illegible] time before he could speak to relate what had ha[illegible]

That it may further appea[illegible] they were deluded, or under the Influence of Satan [illegible] two Stories which were related and believed by th[illegible]

SECT. III. Two Indian Fables.

The first; of a Boy who was car[illegible] a large Bi[illegible] called a *Gulleua*, who buildeth her [illegible] or Mountain. A Boy was Hunting with his B[illegible] at the Foot of a Rocky Mountain, when the *Gulleua* came diving thro' the Air, grasp'd the Boy in her Talons; and tho' he was eight or ten Years of Age, she soar'd aloft, and laid him in her Nest, a Prey for her Young; where the Boy lay constantly on his Face, but would look sometimes under his Arms and saw two Young Ones with much Fish and Flesh in the Nest, and the old Bird constantly bringing more. So that the young Ones not touching him, the old One claw'd him up and set him where she found him; who returned, and related the odd Event to his Friends. As I have, in a Canoe, pass'd near the Mountain, the Indians have said to me, *There is the Nest of the great Bird that carried the Boy away*: And there seem'd to be a great number of Sticks put together in form of a Nest on the Top of the Mountain. At another time they said; *There is the Bird, but he is now, as a Boy to a Giant, to what he was in former Days.* The Bird which they pointed to, was a large speckled Bird, like an Eagle, tho' somewhat larger.

Of an Indian carried away and return'd by a *Gulleua*.

The other Notion is, That a young Indian in his Hunting was belated and lost his Way, and on a sudden he was introduced to a large Wigwam full of dry'd Eels, which prov'd to be a *Beaver*'s House, in which he liv'd till the Spring of the Year, when he was turned out of the House, and set upon a Beaver-Damm, and went Home, and related the Affair to his Friends, at large.

Of a Boy that was entertain'd by a *Beaver*.

When from the Mountain-Tops, with hideous Cry
And clattering Wings the Hungry Harpies fly:
They Snatch'd ——
——And whether Gods or Birds obscene they were,
Our Vows for Pardon and for Peace prefer. *Dryden's Virg.*

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Several Creatures commonly taken dians on St. John's River.

has a very thick strong Neck, his fore h are two in the upper and two in the ncave and sharp like a Carpenter's Googe. re like a Sheep's, for they chew the Cud. ut, the Claws something longer than in he Nails on the Toes of their hind Feet e's, but join'd together by a Membrane Fowl, their Tails broad and flat like the ddle. Near their Tails they have four ich contain Oil, the other Gum, the : in one common Orifice ; the latter of roper Castorum, and not the Testicles, as for the Testicles are distinct & seperate Males only ; but the Castorum and Oyl- to Male and Female. With this Oyl en themselves, so that when they come t runs off them, as it doth off a Fowl. ats, which are on their Breasts, so that Young, and suckle them, as Women do y have generally two and sometimes have seen seven or five in the Matrix : k it a strange thing to find so many in ssert, that when it so happens, the Dam They are the most laborious Creatures h. I have known them to build Damms acros Rivers which were thirty or forty Perch wide, with Wood & Mud, so as to flow many Acres of Land : in the deepest part of a Pond so raised, they build their Houses round in the Figure of an Indian Wigwam, eight or ten Feet in height, and six or eight Feet diameter on the Floor ; which is made descending to the Water, the Parts near the Center about four, and near the Circumference between ten and twenty Inches above the Water : These Floors are covered with strippings of Wood like Shavings ; on these they sleep with their Tails in the Water, and if the Freshits rise they

climb'd a Tree, and where he had jump'd off upon the Moose; and the Moose had given several large Leaps, and happening to come under a Branch of a Tree, had broke the *Wolverin*'s hold and tore him off: and by his Track in the Snow, he went off another, with short steps, as if he had been stun'd with the Blow. The Indians who impute such Accidents to the cunning of the Creature, were wonderfully pleased that the Moose should thus out-wit the mischievous *Wolverin*!

These *Wolverins*, go into Wigwams which have been left for any Time, scatter the [illegible] filthily pollute them with Ordure. [illegible] ns say, that they have hal'd their [illegible] Heads, while they were asleep; a[illegible] An Indian told me, that having l[illegible] sundry Things on the Scaffold, an[illegible] -Flask with several Pounds of Pow[illegible] n they were much surpriz'd and gr[illegible] ad fallen, and a *Wolverin* visits th[illegible] Scaffold, and--- to plundering, [illegible] gage; the Powder happ'ned to fal[illegible] l'd the *Wolverin*'s Eyes, and threw [illegible] some Rods. At length they found the blind Creature rambling backward and forward, had the satisfaction of kicking and beating him about, which in great measure made up their Loss: and then they could contentedly pick up their Utensils, and rig out their Wigwam!

SECT. III. Of the *Hedge-Hog* or *Urchin*.

Our *Hedge-Hog* or *Urchin* is about the bigness of a Hog of six Months old, his Back and Sides and Tail are full of sharp Quills, so that if any Creature approach, they will contract themselves to a globular Form; if a Creature attack them, those Quills are so sharp and lose in their Skins that they fix in the Mouth of the Adversary and leave their own Skin. They will strike with great force, with their Tails; so that whatever falls under the lash of them, are certainly fill'd with their Prickles: But that they shoot their Quills, as some assert they do, is a great mistake as to the *American*, and I believe as to the *African Hedge-Hog* or *Porcupine* also; as to the former I have taken them at all Seasons of the Year. See Chap. 5. Sect. 2.

SECT. IV. Of the *Tortoise*.

It is needless to describe the fresh-water *Tortoise*, whose Form is so well known in all Parts: but their way of propagating their Species is not so universally known. I have observed that sort whose Shell is about fourteen or sixteen Inches wide: in their Coition or Treading they may be heard half a Mile, making a noise like a Woman washing her Linnen with a batting Staff—. They lay their Eggs in the

the Sand; near some deep still Water, about a Foot beneath the surface of the Sand. They are very curious in covering them with the Sand, so that there is not the least mixture of it amongst them; nor the least rising of Sand on the Beach where they lie: I have often search'd for them with the Indians, by thrusting a Stick into the Sand, about the Beech at random, and brought up some part of an Egg clinging to it: and uncovering the Place have found near an hundred & fifty in one Nest. Both their Eggs & Flesh are good-Eating when boil'd &c. I have observed a difference as to the length of Time which they are hatching, which is between twenty & thirty Days, some sooner than others: Whether this difference ought to be imputed various Quality or Site of the Sand in which they lay it's cold or heat &c.) I leave to the Conjecture of tl tuosi. --- As soon as they were hatch'd, they brok the Sand and betook themselves to the Water, as fa could discover, without any further Care or Help of the Old Ones.

Sect. V. Of the *Salmon*.

Of the *Salmon* I shall only note, that they come from the Sea early in the Spring, to the fresh Rivers; and with great pains ascend the Falls, till they come to the Heads of the Rivers; where the Water runs riffling over a coarse Gravel near some Pond or deep still Water: there they work Holes to lodge in, and in the Night resort to them, by two & two, the Male with his Female; thus lying together the Female ejects a Spawn, like a Pea; the Male a Sperm like Milk, which sink among the Gravel. I have often been fishing for them, with a Torch in the Night, when the Water hath been so shoal that they have lien with their Backs & Tails above the Water: and if our Spear miss'd it's stroke, the Fish darted at, would flutter & alarm the whole Shoal, (tho' it consisted of a vast Multitude) which immediately repaired to the deep Water, and return'd not in plenty for several Nights. When the Leaf falls they have done Spawning, and return to the Sea.

CHAP

After the mourning Season is over, the Relations of the deceased make a Feast to wipe off Tears; and they may Marry freely. If the deceas'd were a Squaw, the Relations consult together and choose a Squaw (doubtless a Widow) and send her to the Widower: and if he like her he takes her to be his Wife, if not, he sends her back; and the Relations choose and send 'till they find one that he approveth of.

If

If a young Fellow determines to marry, his Relations and the Jesuit advise him to a Girl: and the young Fellow goes into the Wigwam where she is, and looks on her; and if he likes her, he tosseth a Chip or Stick into her Lap, which she takes, and with a reserv'd, side-Look views the Person who sent it; yet handleth the Chip with Admiration, as tho' she wondred from whence it came. If she likes hi[illegible] throws the Chip to him, with a modest Smile; an[illegible]n nothing is wanting but a Ceremony with the Je[illegible]o consummate the Marriage: But if the young Squa[illegible]ike the Fellow, she with a surly Countenance throws th[illegible]ip aside, and he comes no more there——.

SECT. I. A further Account of their Marriages. 1st. Of a Son.

If Parents have a Daughter marrigeable ||, they seek a Husband for her, who is a good Hunter. And if he have a Gun and Ammunition, a Canoe, Spear and Hatchet; a Monoodah ‡ and crooked-Knife, a looking-Glass & Paint; a Pipe, Tobacco and Knot-Bowl to toss a kind of Dice in, he is accounted a Gentleman of a plentiful Fortune. [By their sort of Dice they lose much Time, playing whole Days and Nights together: and sometimes their whole Estate: tho' this is accounted a great Vice by the Old Men.] Whatever the new-married-Man procures the first Year belongs to his Wife's Parents. [If the young Pair have a Child within a Year and nine Months, they are tho't to be very forward, libidinous Persons.]

---Of a Daughter.

There is an old Story told among the Indians of a Family, who had a Daughter that was accounted a finished Beauty, and adorned with the precious Jewel of an Indian Education! So form'd by Nature and polish'd by Art they could not find for her a suitable Consort! At length, while they resided on the Head of *Penobscot River*, under the White-Hills called the *Teddon*, this fine Creature was missing; and her Parents could have no Account of her. After much Time spent, Pains, and Tears show'red in quest of her;

SECT. IV. A Digression containing an Account of a Rape committed by a Demon. --- Of the White-Hills call'd the *Teddon*, &c

|| A Virgin who has been educated, to make Monoodah's and Birch-Dishes, to lace Snow-Shoes and make Indian-Shoes, to string Wampum-Belts, sew Birch Canoes, and boil the Kettle, is esteem'd as a Lady of fine Accomplishments.

‡ A *Monoodah* is an Indian Bag.

saw her, diverting her self with a beautiful Youth, like her's flow'd down below his Waste, Swimming, &c. in the Water; but the Youths vanished at their Approach *. This beautiful Person, whom they imagin'd to be one of those kind Spirits who inhabit the *Teddon*; they look'd upon him as their Son-in-Law: so that (according to Custom) they called upon him for Moose, Bear, or what ever Creature they desired, and if they did but go to the Water-side and signify their desire, the Creature which they would have, came Swimming to them!

I have heard an Indian say, that he lived by the River at the Foot of the *Teddon*, and in his Wigwam, seeing the top of it thro' the Hole left in the top of the Wigwam for the passing of Smoke, he was tempted to travel to it: accordingly he set out early on a Summer's Morning, and laboured hard in ascending the Hill all Day, and the Top seem'd as distant from the Place where he lodged at Night, as from the Wigwam whence he began his Journey: and concluding that Spirits were there, never dare make a second Attempt.

I have been credibly inform'd that several others have fail'd in the same Attempt: particularly, that three young Men towr'd the *Teddon* three Days and an half, and then began to be strangely disordered & delirious, and when their Imagination was clear, and they could recollect where they were, and had been; they found themselves return'd one Days Journey: how they came down so far, they can't guess, unless the Genii of the Place convey'd them! These White Hills at the Head of *Penobscot River*, are, by the Indians, said to be much higher than those, call'd *Agiockochock*, above *Saco*.

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* ——
Where now, in his divinest Form array'd,
In his true Shape he captivates the Maid;
Who gazes on him, and with wond'ring Eyes
Beholds the new majestick Figure rise,
His glowing Features, and celestial Light,
And all the god discover'd to her sight. *Europa's* Rape.

But

But to return to an Indian Feast, of which
quest a Bill of Fare, before you go; and if yt
stay at Home. The Ingredients are Fish, Flesh
Corn and Beans boil'd together—, or Hasty-
of pounded Corn: Whenever and as often
plenty; an Indian boils four or five large K
sends a Messenger to each Wigwam-Door; wi
Kub Menscoorebab! i. e. *I come to conduct yo*
The Man within demands whether he must take
or a Knife in his Dish which he always carries with him.
They appoint two or three Young Men to Mess it out, to each Man his Portion according to the number of his Family at Home; which is done with the utmost exactness *. When they have done eating, a young Fellow stands without the Door, and crys aloud *Menscommook*, Come & fetch! Immediately each Squaw goes to her Husband and takes what he has left, which she carries Home and eats with her Children. For neither married Women nor any Youth under twenty Years of Age are allowed to be present: but old Widow-Squaws and Captive Men may set by the Door. The Indian Men continue in the Wigwam, some relating their Warlike Exploits; others something Comical; others give a Narrative of their Hunting; the Seniors give maxims of Prudence and grave Counsels to the Young Men: tho' every ones Speech be agreable to the run of his own Fancy, yet they confine themselves to Rule, and but one speaks at a Time. After every Man has told his Story, One rises up, Sings a Feast-Song, and others succeed alternately as the Company see fit.

SECT. VI. Their extraordinary ways of getting Fire and boiling their Food.

Necessity is the Mother of Invention. If an Indian have lost his Fire-Work, he can presently take two Sticks, the one

* What Lord of old wou'd bid his Cook prepare,
Mangoes, Potargo, Champignons, Cavare?
Or wou'd our thrum Cap'd Ancestors find fault
For want of Sugar Tongs, or Spoons for Salt?—
Where every thing that every Soldier got,
Fowl, Bacon, Cabbage, Mutton, and what not,
Was all thrown into Bank, and went to Pot.
} Art of Cookery.

one harder than the other (the drier the better) and in the softest make an Hollow or Socket, to which they'll fit one end of the hardest Stick; then holding the softest Wood firm between their Knees; they fix the end of the hard Stick made fit into the Socket, and whirl it round in their Hand like a Drill, and it takes Fire in a few Minutes.

If they have lost or left their Kettle, 'tis but putting the Victuals into a Birch-Dish, leaving a vacancy in the middle, filling it with Water, and putting in hot Stones alternately: and they will thus thro'ly boil the toughest Neck of Beef.

CHAP. VIII.

Of my three Years Captivity with the French.

SECT. I. Of a Contention among the Indians, which caused them to sell me to the French.

WHEN about six Years of my doleful Captivity had past, my second Indian Master dyed, whose Squaw and my first Indian Master disputed whose Slave I should be; and some malicious Persons advised them to end the Quarrel by putting a Period to my Life: but honest Father *Simon*, the Priest of the River, told them that it would be a heinous Crime, and advised them to sell me to the French. There came annually one or two Men of War to Supply the Fort, which was on the River about thirty four Leagues from the Sea: The Indians having Advice of the Arrival of a Man of War at the Mouth of the River, they, about thirty or forty in Number went aboard: For the Gentlemen from *France* made a Present to them every Year, and set forth the Riches & Victories of their Monarch &c. at this Time they presented a Bag or two of Flour with some Prunes, as Ingredients for a Feast. I, who was dress'd up in an old greasy Blanket, without Cap, Hat or Shirt, (for I had no Shirt for the six Years, but that which was on my Back when I was taken) was invited into the great Cabbin, where many well rigg'd Gentlemen were sitting; who would fain have had a full view of me: I endeavoured to hide my self behind the Hangings, for I was much ashamed; thinking of my former wearing Cloaths, and of my living with People

ple who could rigg as well as the best of them. He asked me, Whether I chose to be sold aboard the Man of War, or to the Inhabitants? I replied with Tears, I should be glad if you would sell me to the English from whom you took me; but if I must be sold to the French, I choose to be sold to the lowest on the River, or nearest Inhabitant to the Sea, about twenty-five Leagues from the Mouth of the River: for I tho't, that, if I were sold to the Gentlemen aboard the Man of War, I should never return to the English. This was the first sight I had of Salt Water in my Captivity, and the first time that I had tasted Salt or Bread.

SECT. II. Of my being sold to the French.

My Master presently went ashore, and after a few Days all the Indians went up the River; and when we came to the House which I mentioned to my Master, he went ashore with me and tarried all Night: the Master of the House spake kindly to me in Indian, for I could not then speak one Word of French: Madam also look'd pleasant on me, and gave me some Bread. The next Day I was sent six Leagues further up the River to another French House. My Master and the Fryar tarried with Monsieur *Dechouffour*, the Gentleman who had entertain'd us the Night before. Not long after, Father *Simon* came and said, Now you are one of us, for you are sold to that Gentleman by whom you were entertain'd the other Night. I replied; --- Sold! --- to a Frenchman! --- I could say no more! --- went into the Woods alone and wept till I could scarce see or stand! The word *Sold*, and that to a People of that Persuasion, which my dear Mother so much detested, and in her last Words manifested so great Fears of my falling into! --- the Thoughts of these almost broke my Heart! When I had given vent to my Passions, I rub'd my Eyes, endeavouring to hide my Grief: But Father *Simon* perceiving that my Eyes were swoln, called me aside; and bid me not to grieve: for the Gentleman to whom I was sold was of a good humour, that he had formerly bought two Captives of the Indians, who both went home to *Boston*; this in some measure revived me. But he added, that, he did not suppose that I would ever incline to go to the English, for the French way of Worship was much to be preferred: also, that he

should pass that way in about ten Days, and if I did not like to live with the French better than with the Indians, he would buy me again. On the Day following, Father *Simon* and my Indian Master went up the River six & thirty Leagues, to their Chief Village, and I went down the River six Leagues with two Frenchmen to my new Master: Who kindly receiv'd me, and in a few Days Madam made me an Osnabrigs Shirt and French Cap, and a Coat out of one of my Master's old Coats; then I threw away my greasy Blanket and Indian Flap, and look'd as smart as----. And I never more saw the old Fryar, the Indian Village, or my Indian Master, till about fourteen Years after I saw my Indian Master at *Port-Royal* whither I was sent by the Government, with a Flag on Truce, for exchanging Prisoners: and again about twenty four Years since he came from *St. John's* to *George's* to see me, where I made him very welcome.

SECT. III. Of my Employment among the French.

My French Master held a great Trade with the Indians, which suited me very well, I being thorow in the Languages of the Tribes at *Cape Sable's* and *St. John's*. I had not lived long with this Gentleman before he committed to me the Keys of his Store &c. and my whole Employment was Trading and Hunting; in which I acted faithfully for my Master, and never knowingly wrong'd him to the value of one Farthing. They spake to me so frequently in Indian, that it was some time before I was perfect in the French Tongue. Monsieur generally had his Goods from the Man of War which came there annually from *France*.

In the Year 1696 two Men of War came to the Mouth of the River, which had taken the *New-Port*, Capt. *Paulson* Commander, and brought him with them: They made the Indians some Presents, and invited them to join in an Expedition to *Pemmaquid*, which Invitation they accepted, and soon after arrived there; and Capt. *Chubb* ‖ delivered the

‖ The Reverend Dr. *Mather* says wittily (as he said every thing) "This *Chubb* found Opportunity in a pretty *Chubbish manner*, to kill "the famous *Edgeremet* & *Abenquid*, a couple of principal Indians, with "one or two other Indians, on a Lord's Day, the sixteenth of *February* 1695. If there were any unfair Dealing in this Action of "*Chubb*, there will be another *February*, not far off, wherein the A-"venger of Blood will take their Satisfaction. *Hist. of* N. E. *B.* 7. *P.* 79.

Fort,

Fort, without much dispute, to Monsieur D[illegible] as I heard the Gentleman say [illegible] there present ‡. Early in the [illegible] three Frenchmen, to the Mouth of the R[illegible] or R[illegible] which came from *Port-Royal*. We carried over Land, from the River to a large Bay, where we were driven on an Island by a North-East Storm; and were kept there seven Days, without any Sustenance, for we expected a quick Passage, and carried nothing with us; the Wind continuing boisterous, so that we could not return back, and the Ice prevented our going forward: After seven Days the Ice broke up, and we went forward, tho' we were so weak that we could scarce hear each other speak; and the People at the Mouth of the River were surprized to see us so feeble; and advised us to be cautious & abstemious in eating. By this Time, I knew as much of Fasting as they, and dieted on Broth, and recovered very well, as also one of the others did; but the other two would not be advised: and I never saw any Persons in greater Torment than they were, till they obtain'd a Passage---on which they recovered.

SECT. IV. Of the Fryar's transaction while I was among them.

A Friar who lived in the Family invited me to Confession, but I excused my self as well as I could. One Evening he took me into his Apartment, in the dark, and advised me to confess to him what Sins I had committed: I told him, that I could not remember a thousandth part of them (they were so numerous:) Then he bid me remember and relate as many as I could, and he would pardon them; signifying that he had a Bag to put them in. I told him that I did not believe that it was in the power of any but GOD to pardon Sin. He asked me, whether I had read the Bible? I told him that I had when I was a little Boy, so long since, that I had forgot most of it. Then he told me, that he did not pardon my Sins; but when he knew them

‡ Our last quoted Author says, on the fourth or fifth of *August*, *Chubb* with an unaccountable Basenesss did Surrender the Brave Fort of *Pemmaquid* into their Hands.

" Unthinking Men no sort of Scruples make;
" And some are bad, only for Mischief's sake;
" But ev'n the Best are guilty by Mistake.

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Singing, with the Jesuit, *Ora pro Nobis*; at the End of the Field they Wheel'd to the Left about, and return'd. Thus they went through the Field of Wheat, the Birds rising before them and lighting behind them. At their return I said to a French Lad; The Fryar hath done no Service, --He had better take a Gun and shoot the Birds. The Lad left me a while (I tho't, to ask the Jesuit what to say) and when he returned, he said, the Sins of the People were so great, that the Fryar could not prevail against those Creatures. The same Jesuit as vainly attempted to banish the Muschetoes at *Sigenetto*, for the Sins of that People were so great also, that he could not prevail against them, but rather drew more: as the French inform'd me!

Some

Some Time after Col *Hawthorn* French Fort up this River: we before they came up the River, nour *Vielbon* had order'd at the R the Gentleman whom I lived with Madam Advised with me---- She Paper on the Door of our House.

I intreat the General of the Engl *Barn, nor destroy my Cattle. I d my come up this River to destroy a the Fort above us. I have shewn K tives as we were Capacitated, and the Indians and sent them to* Bosto *us, and he shall go also when a conv and he desires it.*

This done, Madam said to

" *Little English*; We have shewn you Kindness; and " now it lies in your Power to serve or disserve us, as you " know where our Goods are hid in the Woods, and that " *Monsieur* is not at Home. I could have sent you to the " Fort and put you under Confinement, but my Respects " to you, and assurance of your Love to us; has disposed " me to confide in you, perswaded that you will not hurt " us nor our Affairs. And now if you will not run away " to the English who are coming up the River, but serve " our Interest, I will acquaint *Monsieur* of it at his return " from *France*, which will be very pleasing to him: And " I now give my Word, that, you shall have liberty to go " to *Boston* on the first Opportunity (if you desire it) or " that any other Favour, in my Power, shall not be de- " ny'd you".

I replied; " *Madam*; It is contrary to the Nature of " the English to requite Evil for Good. I shall endeavour " to serve you and your Interest. I shall not run to the " English; but if I am taken by them, shall willingly go " with them, and yet endeavour not to disserve you either " in your Persons or Goods".

|| The Place where our House stood, was called *Hagimsack*, twenty-five Leagues from the River's Mouth, as before noted

for it was so late in the Fall, that had they tarried a few Days longer, in the River; they would have been froze in for the Winter. Hearing no report of the great Guns for several Days, I with two others went down to our House, to make discovery—: where we found our young Lad who was taken by the English when they went up the River: For the General was so honourable that, on reading the Note on our Door, he ordered that the House and Barn should not be burnt, nor their Cattle or other Creatures kill'd; except one or two, and the Poultry, for their Use: and at their return, order'd the young Lad to be put ashore. Finding things in this Posture, we return'd and gave *Madam* an Account: --- She acknowledged the many Favours which the English had shewn her with Gratitude; and treated me with great Civility. The next Spring, *Monsieur* arriv'd from *France* in the Man of War; who thank'd me for my Care of his Affairs, and said that he would endeavour to fulfill what Madam had promised to me.

And

May the most powerful and b[illegible]ficent BEING, accept of this publick Testimony of [illegible]s my Experience to excite others to confi[illegible]ny-sufficiency, thro' the infinite Merits of JE[illegible].

APPENDIX.

" and at all times past.

" Let not your stay there be more than six Days, if possible, and " hasten back with all imaginable Expedition.

" Be not by any means diverted from your demand and expecta- " tion of seeing the English Prisoners, and that you bring them with " you; unless on your speaking with them they are not willing to " come, but make their Election to be Transported elsewhere; as " you have seen done by your Governour here.

" I have ordered the Master to attend your Orders. He will " shew you his Instructions, and I desire you will see they be strict- " ly observed, particularly in the Article referring to Trade, and " the Government of his Company. I wish you a prosperous Voyage.

" And am, Sir,

" Your Friend and Servant,

J. DUDLEY.

" Make particular Inquiry after
" Capt. *Myles*, and demand
" his and Company's Release.

" *To Capt.* John Gyles, *Commission'd*
" *to* Port-Royal.

Accordingly arriving at *Port-Royal*, I was again kindly entertain'd by Governour *Supercass*, & brought off above an Hundred Prisoners: soon after my return our Forces were dismiss'd, and I receiv'd no further consideration for my Service than Pay as Captain of my Company.

August 1715. I was desired and had great Promises made me by the Proprietors, and received Orders from His Excellency, to build a Fort at *Pejipscot*. Soon after our Arrival there, the Indians came in