

co was particularly partial to biographical compositions, and often employed his daughters in reading the lives of remarkable men to him.—Struck, one day, by the sufferings of a conquering hero, similar to his own, but infinitely superior, in his opinion, he felt himself doubly resigned to his lot, and with all the purity of Christian love, sincerely forgave those who had ruined him.—He was resigned—and he was rewarded for his resignation.—Of the men who had conspired against his peace and his prosperity, all, except one, came to untimely ends, and the survivor, strikingly affected by the fate of his companions, made confessions upon his death-bed, which paved the way to the full restoration of Lodovico, to all the honours of which he had been basely deprived, and to all the wealth which had been unjustly wrested away from him.



SOME ACCOUNT OF MR. LEDYARD'S METHODS OF TRAVELLING.

BY HENRY BEAUFOY, ESQ.

From the proceedings of the Association for promoting the discovery of the interior parts of Africa.

MR. LEDYARD was an American by birth, and seemed from his youth to have felt an invincible desire to make himself acquainted with the unknown, or imperfectly discovered regions of the globe. For several years

he had lived with the Indians of America, had studied their manners, and had practised in their school the means of obtaining the protection, and of recommending himself to the favour of savages. In the humble situation of a corporal of marines, to which he submitted rather than relinquish his pursuit, he had made with Capt. Cook, the voyage of the world; and feeling on his return an anxious desire of penetrating from the North-western coast of America, which Cook had partly explored, to the Eastern coast, with which he himself was perfectly familiar, he determined to traverse the vast continent from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean.

His first plan for the purpose, was that of embarking in a vessel which was then preparing to sail, on a voyage of commercial adventure, to Nootka Sound, on the Western coast of America; and with this view he expended in sea-stores the greatest part of the money which his chief benefactor, Sir Joseph Banks (whose generous conduct the writer of this narrative had often heard him acknowledge,) had liberally supplied. But the scheme being frustrated by the rapacity of a custom-house officer, who had seized and detained the vessel for reasons which on legal enquiry proved to be frivolous, he determined to travel over land to Kamschatka, from whence, to the Western coast of America, the passage is extremely short. With no more than ten guineas in his purse, which was all that he had left, he crossed

crossed the British Channel to Ostend, and by the way of Denmark and the Sound, proceeded to the capital of Sweden, from which, as it was winter, he attempted to traverse the Gulph of Bothnia on the ice, in order to reach Kamschatka by the shortest way; but finding, when he came to the middle of the sea, that the water was not frozen, he returned to Stockholm, and, taking his course Northward, walked into the Arctic Circle, and passing round the head of the Gulph, descended on its Eastern side to Peterburgh.

There he was soon noticed as an extraordinary man. Without stockings or shoes, and in too much poverty to provide himself with either, he received and accepted an invitation to dine with the Portuguese Ambassador. To this invitation it was probably owing, that he was able to obtain the sum of twenty guineas for a bill on Sir Joseph Banks, which he confessed he had no authority to draw, but which, in consideration of the business that he had undertaken, and of the progress that he had made, Sir Joseph, he believed, would not be unwilling to pay. To the Ambassador's interest it might also be owing, that he obtained permission to accompany a detachment of stores which the Empress had ordered to be sent to Yakutz, for the use of Mr. Billings, an Englishman, at that time in her service.

Thus accommodated he travelled Eastward through Siberia 8000 miles to Yakutz, where he was kindly received, by Mr. Bil-

lings, whom he remembered on board Capt. Cook's ship, in the situation of the astronomer's servant, but to whom the Empress had now entrusted her schemes of Northern discovery.

From Yakutz he proceeded to Oczkow, on the coast of the Kamschatka sea, from whence he meant to have passed over to that Peninsula, and to have embarked on the Eastern side in one of the Russian vessels that trade to the Western shores of America; but finding that the navigation was obstructed by the ice, he returned again to Yakutz, in order to wait for the conclusion of the winter.

Such was his situation, when, in consequence of suspicions not hitherto explained, or resentments, for which no reason is assigned, he was seized, in the Empress's name, by two Russian soldiers, who placed him in a sledge, and conveying him, in the depth of winter, through the deserts of Northern Tartary, left him, at last on the frontiers of the Polish dominions. As they parted, they told him, that if he returned to Russia, he would certainly be hanged; but that if he chose to go back to England, they wished him a pleasant journey.

In the midst of poverty, covered with rags, infested with the usual accomplishments of such cloathing, worn with continual hardship, exhausted by disease, without friends, without credit, unknown, he found his way to Koningsberg.—There, in the hour of his uttermost distress, he resolved once more to have recourse

course to his old benefactor, and he luckily found a person who was willing to take his draft for five guineas, on the President of the Royal Society.

With this assistance he arrived in England, and immediately waited on Sir Joseph Banks, who told him, knowing his temper, that he believed he could recommend him to an adventure almost as perilous as the one from which he had returned; and then communicated to him the wishes of the Association for discovering the inland countries of Africa.

Ledyard replied, that he had always determined to traverse the Continent of Africa, as soon as he had explored the Interior of North America; and as Sir Joseph had offered him a letter of introduction, he came immediately to the writer of these memoirs. Before I had learnt from the note the name and business of my visitor, I was struck with the manliness of his person, the breadth of his chest, the openness of his countenance, and the inquietude of his eye; I spread a map of Africa before him, and tracing a line from Cairo to Senar, and from thence Westward in the latitude and supposed-direction of the Niger; I told him that was the route, by which I was anxious, that Africa, if possible, might be explored. He said he should think himself singularly fortunate to be entrusted with the adventure. I asked him when he would set out—"To-morrow morning," was his answer. I told him I was afraid we should not be able, in so short a time, to

prepare his instructions, and to procure for him the letters that were requisite; but that if the Committee should approve of his proposal, all expedition should be used.

To Mr. Ledyard was assigned at his own desire, as an enterprise of obvious peril and difficult success, the task of traversing, from East to West, in the latitude attributed to the Niger, the widest part of the Continent of Africa.

Mr. Ledyard took his departure from London, on the 30th of June, 1788, and after a journey of six and thirty days, seven of which were consumed at Paris, and two at Marseilles, arrived in the city of Alexandria.

His letters of recommendation to the British Consul, secured him from the embarrassments which the want of inns would otherwise have occasioned; and procuring for him the necessary instructions for assuming the dress, and adopting the manners, that are requisite for an Egyptian traveller.

Forcibly impressed by the objects which he saw, and naturally led to compare them with those which other regions of the globe presented to his view, he describes with the energy of an original observer, and exhibits in his narrative the varied effects of similarity and contrast. But as the travellers who preceded him, have obtained and transmitted to Europe, whatever knowledge, either ancient or modern, the Lower Egypt affords, and as the examination of that country was no part of the business given him in charge,

charge, his descriptions, generally speaking, would add but little to the instruction which other narratives convey.

During his residence at Cario, he sent to the Committee many remarks on the people of Africa. The views which they opened were interesting and instructive; but they derived their principal importance from the proofs which they afforded, of the ardent spirit of enquiry, the unwearied attention, the persevering research, and the laborious, indefatigable, anxious zeal, with which their author pursued the object of his mission.

Already informed that his next dispatch would be dated at Senнар; that letters of earnest recommendation had been given him by the Aga; that the terms of his passage had been settled; and that the day of his departure was appointed; the Committee waited with impatience the description of his journey. Great was therefore their concern, and severe their disappointment, when letters from Egypt announced the melancholy tidings of his death. A bilious complaint, the consequence of vexatious delays in the promised departure of the caravan, had induced him to try the effects of too powerful a dose of the acid of vitriol; and the sudden uneasiness and burning pain which followed the incautious draft, impelled him to seek relief from the violent action of the strongest Tartar emetic. A continued discharge of blood discovered the danger of his situation, and summoned to his aid, the generous

friendship of the Venetian Consul, and the ineffectual skill of the most approved physicians of Cairo.

He was decently interred in the neighbourhood of such of the English as had ended their days in the capital of Egypt.

The bilious complaint with which he was seized, has been attributed to the forwardness of a childish impatience. Much more natural is the conjecture, that his unexpected detention, week after week, and month after month, at Cairo, a detention which consumed his finances, which therefore exposed to additional hazard the success of his favourite enterprise, and which consequently tended to bring into question his honour to the Society, had troubled his spirits, had preyed upon his peace, and subjected him at last to the disease that proved in its consequences, the means of dragging him to his grave.

Of his attachment to the Society, and of his zeal for their service, the following extracts from his letters are very remarkably expressive:—

Money! it is a vile slave!— I have at present an economy of a more exalted kind to observe. I have the eyes of some of the first men of the first kingdom on earth turned upon me. I am engaged by those very men in the most important objects that any private individual can be engaged in; I have their approbation to acquire or to lose; and their esteem also; which I prize beyond every thing, except the independent

dependent idea of serving mankind. Should rashness or desperation carry me through, whatever fame the injudicious might bestow, I should not accept of it; it is the good and great I look to; fame from them bestowed is altogether different, and is closely allied to a "Well done!" from God: but rashness will not be likely to carry me through, any more than timid caution. To find the necessary medium of conduct, to vary and apply it to contingencies, is the economy I allude to; and if I succeed by such means, men of sense in any succeeding epoch will not blush to follow me, and perfect those discoveries I have only abilities to trace out roughly, or, a disposition to attempt.

"A Turkish sofa has no charms for me, if it had, I could soon obtain one here. I could to-morrow take the command of the best armament of Ismael Bey. I should be sure of success, and its consequential honours. Believe me a single "Well done!" from your Society has more worth in it to me than all the trappings of the East; and what is still more precious, is the pleasure I have in the justification of my own conduct at the tribunal of my own heart."

To those who have never seen Mr. Ledyard, it may not perhaps, be uninteresting to know, that his person, though scarcely exceeding the middle size, was remarkably expressive of activity and strength; and that his manners, though unpolished, were neither uncivil nor unpleasing. Little attentive to

difference of rank, he seemed to consider all men as his equals, and as such he respected them. His genius though uncultivated and irregular, was original and comprehensive. Ardent in his wishes, yet calm in his deliberations; daring in his purposes, but guarded in his measures; impatient of control, yet capable of strong endurance; adventurous beyond the conception of ordinary men, yet wary and considerate; and attentive to all precautions, he appeared to be formed by nature for achievements of hardihood, and peril.

They who compare the extent of his pilgrimage through the vast regions of Tartary, with the scantiness of his funds, will naturally ask, by what means he obtained subsistence on the road? all that I have ever learned from him on the subject was, that his sufferings were excessive, and that more than once he owed his life to the compassionate temper of the women. This last remark is strongly confirmed by the following extract from his account of his Siberian tour:—

"I have always remarked, that women in all countries, are civil, obliging, tender, and humane; that they are ever inclined to be cheerful and gay; timorous and modest; and that they do not hesitate, like men, to perform a generous action—Not haughty, not arrogant, not supercilious, they are full of courtesy, and fond of society; more liable, in general, to err than man; but in general, also, more virtuous, and performing

ing more good actions than he. To a woman, whether civilized or savage, I never addressed myself in the language of decency and friendship, without receiving a decent and friendly answer. With man it has often been otherwise.

“ In wandering over the barren and inhospitable plains of Denmark, through honest Sweden, and frozen Lapland, rude and churlish Finland, unprincipled Russia, and the wide spread regions of the wandering Tartar, if hungry, dry, cold, wet, or sick, the women have ever been friendly to me, and uniformly so; and to add to this virtue (so worthy the appellation of benevolence,) these actions have been performed in so free, and so kind a manner, that if I was dry, I drank the sweetest draught, and if hungry, I ate the coarse morsel with a double relish.”

But though the native benevolence which even among savages, distinguishes and adorns the female character, might sometimes soften the severity of his sufferings, yet at others he seems to have endured the utmost pressure of distress.

“ I am accustomed, (said he in our last conversation—’twas on the morning of his departure for Africa) I am accustomed to hardships. I have known both nakedness and hunger to the greatest extremity of human suffering. I have known what it is to have food given me, as charity to a madman, and I have at times been obliged to shelter myself under the miseries of that charac-

ter, to avoid a heavier calamity. My distresses have been greater than I have ever owned, or ever will own to any man. Such evils are terrible to bear; but they never had power to turn me from my purpose. If I live, I will faithfully perform, in its utmost extent, my engagement to the Society; and if I perish in the attempt, my honour will still be safe, for death cancels all bonds.”



A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF THE
EMPIRE OF HINDOSTAN.

SINCE the Mahomedans gained possession of Hindostan, the boundaries have greatly varied: at times it has extended over the whole country so called, and at other times has been confined to the province of Delhi. Under Acbar, an account of the revenues, population, &c. was collected in a book, called the institutes of Acbar. By that emperor, Hindostan was divided into eleven soubahdaries, each of which was divided into circars, and each circar into purgannahs. The names of these soubahdaries were Lahore, Moulton, including Sindy, Agimere, Delhi, Agra, Oude, Allahabad, Bahar, Bengal, Malva, and Guzurat. A twelfth was afterwards erected, called Cabul; and on the conquest of the Decan, Berar, Candeish, and Amednagur, were added. The Decan, or that country which contains the whole western peninsula of India, being added to these provinces, from the whole space

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