

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Sevarites or *Sevarambi*:

A

Nation inhabiting part of the third
CONTINENT,
Commonly called,
Terræ Australes Incognitæ.

WITH

An Account of their admirable
GOVERNMENT, RELIGION,
CUSTOMS, and LANGUAGE.

Written

By one Captain *Siden*,

A Worthy Person,

Who, together with many others, was cast upon those Coasts, and lived
many Years in that Country.

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THE PUBLISHER TO THE READER

There are many, who having read *Plato's Commonwealth*,¹ Sir *Thomas More's Utopia*, the Lord *Verulam's New Atlantis*,² (which are but Ideas and ingenious fancies) are apt to suspect all relations of new discoveries to be of that kind; and chiefly when they find in them any thing extraordinary and wonderful. But although these persons are to be commended for being wary and cautious, yet it is but so long as they keep within the bounds of moderation, and do not pass to the excess of incredulity. For as some men, through a believing simplicity, are easily imposed upon, and receive that for a truth, which in effect is not one: So others, on the contrary, through a contrary humour, are apt to reject, as fabulous, that which often proves to be a real truth. This clearly appears in the case of *Vergilius* Bishop of *Collen*,³ who was like to have suffered a severe punishment for affirming, that *There were Antipodes*; neither could any thing save him but a publick Recantation. *Columbus* was looked upon (here in *England*, and afterward in *France*) as a brain-sick Fellow for saying, *There was Land on the West parts of the Ocean*: Yet the Voyages since made round the World have justified *Vergilius* his opinion: And the discovery of *America* (where we have many flourishing Plantations) has sufficiently evidenced the truth of *Columbus* his Assertion. The Histories of *Peru*, *Mexico*, *China*, *etc.* were at first taken for Romances by many, but time has shewed since that they are verities not to be doubted of.

Those remote Countries were for thousands of years unknown to the People of *Europe*, and so are still many others perhaps, and at this day we know little more of them, than what lies upon the Sea-coasts. But how should we have a perfect knowledge of remote Countries, lately discovered, since there are many parts of *Europe* very little known yet, and some not at all. Nay, the *British* Islands are not perfectly described: And before their last Civil Wars, the *Highlands* of *Scotland*; many parts of *Ireland*, and other smaller Isles about, were very little known to the People of *England*: And their Customs, Laws, and Religion, are things we have not yet had any very good account of. Few Travellers make it their business to write Histories, and make descriptions of those Countries they have travelled in, for most of them being Merchants, or Seamen, they mind little more than their Trade; and being intent upon gain and profit, seldom busie themselves in making observations. Besides,

1. [Better known as *The Republic*].

2. [Francis Bacon, author of *The New Atlantis* (1627), became Baron Verulam in 1618].

3. [St. Vergilius of Salzburg, d. 789 AD, canonized 1233 AD.]

few of them are qualified for the writing of Books if they were never so willing; and fewer have time and opportunity to apply themselves to that study; so it falls out, that we have few exact relations of remote Countries, although they be often seen, and even described in Maps. For an Instance, The Isle of *Borneo* lies near *Java*, and in the Way to *China*, it is one of the biggest in the world according to Geographical Descriptions, and yet we have very little knowledge of it, although the *Dutch* have very large Dominions in *Java*, and other Islands about it, and sail daily by it in their way to *Jappan* and *China*. Many other places there are which Sailers take no more notice of than as it is necessary for their Ships to avoid them. And how can it be expected we should have any good descriptions of them, unless some great Powers should undertake it, and send fit persons for that purpose, with all the helps and encouragement requisite in so useful and honourable a design? Among all remote Countries, there is none so vast, and so little known, as the third Continent, commonly called, *Terra Australis*.⁴ It is true, Geographers give some small and unperfect descriptions of it, but it is with little knowledge and certainty; and most of their draughts may be suspected, and look'd upon, as imaginary and fictitious. Sure it is, that there is such a Continent; many have seen it, and even landed there, but few durst venture far in it, if any there were; and I do not think that any body hath made any true description of it, either for want of knowledge, or other necessary means and opportunities.

This History will supply that defect, in a great measure, if it be true, as I have reason to believe upon these grounds:

First, Upon the testimony of the Reporter, who doth not only herein affirm this History to be true, but did it also by word of mouth, a good while before, and again near the time of his death, when he gave his Papers to the Gentleman, who did lately put them into my hands. These two Gentlemen came to know one another at *Smirna*,⁵ a little before the Dutch Fleet departed from thence, in or about the year 1607 [*sic*: 1672], and being both bound for *Holland*; they came together in the same Ship, where by a daily converse they contracted a very strict friendship. This Fleet being attacked in its return, there were many men killed and wounded; and among the rest, the Author of this Relation, called Captain *Siden*, was mortally wounded, and lived but little after the fight.

Upon his death-bed he made his Friend Heir of what he had in the Ship, and spake to him in this manner: as the Gentleman, himself, hath often declared to me.

4. [Now known as Australia].

5. [City on the southwest coast of what is now Turkey].

Sir, Since it is Gods Decree that I should live no longer, I patiently submit to his Divine Will without any murmuring. But before I die, I am willing to dispose of a Chest I have in this Ship, where you will find some Money, and a few Jewels, of no great value, I confess, but such as they are I give them to you, and I am sorry they are not better worth your acceptance, I give you also the Chest, and every thing in it; and though, it seems, the whole is worth but little, yet you will find a great Treasure in it, and that is the History of my Adventures in the South Continent, as you have heard me relate to you several times. You will find it in a great disorder and confusion for the most part; and written in several Languages, as being intended only to serve for memoires till I could digest them into an orderly contexture. But since God will not permit me to do it my self, I commit it to your care, knowing you are an ingenious person, and give you full power and authority to dispose of the said Papers as you will think most convenient; assuring you upon my death bed, as I have done before in several discourses, that they contain nothing but truth; which, I hope, time and further experience will bring to light.

These were the last words of the dying Gentleman, who a few hours after gave up his Soul to God; and who, according to his Friends testimony, was a very sober, discreet, and worthy Person.

After his Death his Heir examined the Papers, and found they were written, for the most part in *Latine*; the rest in *French, Italian, and Provençal*; the diversity of which Languages put him to a great deal of trouble, for he did not understand them all, neither was he willing to trust the Writings into Strangers hands. These difficulties, together with the confusion of the Wars that followed, and several troublesome Affairs, were the reason why he kept this History concealed all this while, not knowing whom to trust it with. But being come from *Holland* into *England* since the Peace was proclaimed betwixt the two Nations; and having contracted some acquaintance and friendship with me, he did me the favour a while ago to intrust me with his Papers, and desired my assistance in putting them into an orderly method. I perused them, and found the matter, therein contained, so extraordinary and wonderful, that I was never at rest till I had disposed them into a good order and contexture; which I, at last, effected, not without much labour and pains, with the Gentlemans help and counsel.

Now we were a while uncertain in what Language we should publish this History, he being inclined to do it in *Latine*, or *French*: But at last I prevailed with him, and perswaded him to let me Print it in *English*, taking the whole task upon my self.

But before we proceeded in that design, I was desirous to enquire after the truth of this discovery some other way, and told him it were very material to send into *Holland*, to know of the Officers of the

Admiralties there, whether any such Ship, as the *Golden Dragon*, herein mentioned, was at any time gone from thence for *Batavia*:⁶ To which he readily answered, he had satisfied himself therein, and found upon examination, that a Vessel of that name was gone from the *Texel*,⁷ at the time herein expressed, with all the other Circumstances. But this was not enough to satisfy me, because I had nothing but his bare Affirmation: I therefore went to Mr. *Van Dam*, Advocate to the *East-India* Company, and one of the Commissioners sent hither from the States General to adjust matters concerning the Treaty of Commerce between the two Nations, and enquired of him, Whether he remembered any such Vessel. His answer was, That he did very well remember, that in the Year 1655 a new Ship, called the *Golden Dragon*, was gone from the *Texel*, and as he thought from *Enchusen* for *Batavia*, carrying Money, and a great number of Passengers; that she had perished by storm, as he thought, about the South Continent. This Gentleman's declaration did much confirm me in the opinion of the truth of this History. But that which did, a while after, absolutely, convince me, was a Letter, shewed me by a French Gentleman, who had made some enquiry after this Ship, at the intreaty of a *Savoyard* upon this occasion.

This French Gentleman discoursing, three or four years ago, with a Gentleman of *Bruges*, (as I take it) who had once great Concerns in the *East-Indies*; and lived there many years; and asking him many questions relating to those Countries, heard him relate the Story of this Ship, and how she was cast away upon the Coasts of the South Continent, where all her Men and Provision were saved, &c. Not long after he told occasionally the same Story in a Company, where was a Gentleman of *Savoy*. This Gentleman hearing this Story related, seemed to be much concerned in it, and craved of the French man, that he would bring him acquainted with the Dutch Gentleman, who had made that Relation to him. But this could not be done, because the Dutch Gentleman was then in *Flanders*; whereupon he intreated him to write to him, and desire him to give the best account he could of it; which he readily consented to, and having sent a Letter to his Friend concerning this matter, received the following answer, which we have faithfully translated out of *French*, and inserted it here.

SIR,

According to your desire, and for your Friends satisfaction, I shall tell you; that when I was at Batavia, in the year 1659, a Dutch Seaman, named Prince, bearing that I had been near the South Continent, told me, that some years

6. [[The capital of the Dutch East Indies; now Jakarta, Indonesia.]

7. [The port of Amsterdam.]

before (I do not remember how many, nor at what height) he was cast away in a new Ship, called the Green, or Golden Dragon; which carried a great deal of Money, designed for Batavia, and about four hundred people; who for the most part had got into the said Land, and kept there the same Discipline they had at Sea. That having entrenched themselves, with what they had saved, and among the rest, most of their Victuals, they made a new Pinnace out of the broken pieces of their Ship, casting Lots for eight men (whereof this Seaman was one) to go to Batavia, to inform the General of the Holland company of their disaster, to the end he might send Ships to fetch those who had been cast away. That Pinnace being come to Batavia, with much ado; The said General dispatched presently a Frigot, which being come to that Coast, they sent their long Boat ashore with many men, who landed at the place and height to them described before, but found no body there. They ranged along that Coast till they lost their Boat, and some of their men, through the badness of the weather, which that Coast is very subject to, and so returned to Batavia without effecting any thing. The General sent a second Frigot, which likewise came back, with no better success than the former. People speak differently of that Country, some saying, that in the Inland, there are People of a great Stature; others, that they are little and subtile, and that they carry those they can catch into the inner parts of the Land along with them. I was like to have landed there, but, as through Gods special favour, a sudden calm in the night saved us from being cast away; soon after a sudden storm made us alter our minds of landing there, and we thought our selves happy to get to Sea again.

This is all I can tell you of this business: Your Friends may hear more of this ship from those who belong to the East-India company. General Maetsuycker was then, and is still, General in Batavia; but I had this account only of the Seaman above mentioned. The Land of this Country is reddish, and barren, and the Coasts as if they were enchanted by reason of frequent storms, which hinder much those who will land there: And that is the reason why the aforesaid Frigots lost their Boats and men. They could not land every where; and this Seaman is of opinion, they could not find the right place. I remain

Your most humble Servant

*Bridges, Oct.
28.1672.*

Th. S.

This is the true Copy of the Letter sent to this French Gentleman, who has given me the Original, and I have it still in my possession. He added, That the *Savoyard* took a Copy of it, and told him, that he himself had made great enquiry after a Gentleman of his Country, who was said to have gone in this Ship. That the same Gentleman had been a great

Traveller, and had left an Estate near *Nice de Provence*, where he was born, and that his Kindred, not having heard from him for many years, were much troubled to know what was become of him. All these things are, in my opinion, very strong Arguments to establish the truth of this History, since they agree so well with the History it self in all the Circumstances of Time, Place, and Person, and are attested by so many credible Witnesses, which are yet alive, for the most part, and who living in several places, not knowing one another, and having no interest in the publishing of this Story, cannot rationally be suspected, to have all joyned together to give credit to a Fictitious Narration. But I leave the Reader to the liberty of using his own Judgment, and content my self with shewing the Reasons which have been able to convince mine. I wish that those who shall read this most delightful and admirable Relation may reap some profit out of it either in point of Pleasure or Utility, it being a very ingenious Piece, and the most perfect model of Government I ever read or heard of in my life.

D. V.

The History of the *Sevarites*, or *Sevarambi*

My Natural Genius, the manner of my Education, and the Example of others, inspired me in my young years with a restless desire of travelling the World, that I might my self be an Eye Witness of those things I had either read or heard of. But the Authority of my Parents, who designed me for the Gown, and my want of sufficient means, were powerful Obstacles to my desires; and would have confined me at home, had not fortune, mightier than all these, ordered it contrary to their intent, and according to my wishes. For before I had attained the fifteenth year of my age, I was sent into *Italy*, in a Military Employment, which kept me there two whole years before I came home again into my own Country; from whence, soon after my Return, I was obliged to march into *Catalonia* with a better Command than that I had before. I continued there in the Army for the space of three years, and would not have quitted the Service, if my Fathers untimely Death had not called me home again to take possession of a small Estate he left me, and to obey my Mothers absolute Commands, who called me back, as the only person, after so great a loss, that was able to dry up her tears.

These Considerations made me to return, and after that, to leave the Sword, and to put on the Gown, and change a Souldiers life for that of a Lawyer; to which study upon this occasion I did wholly apply my self; read the Institutions, the Codex, and the Digest or Pandects,⁸ where having made a pretty good progress in four or five years time I was persuaded to take my Degrees in the University, which I did accordingly with an indifferent good success. Then was I received into the Sovereign Court of Judicature of my Country in the quality of an Advocate, as being the first step to higher dignities, exercised my self in Declamations upon fictitious Causes, and pleaded real and choice ones in *Apparatu*, as they term it, with some applause and credit. I was well enough pleased with these kinds of exercises, in which young men love to shew their Wit and Eloquence to the Publick, and where they get more praise than money; But when I descended to the lower practice of the Law, I found it

8. [The major texts of Roman law, promulgated by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I (527–565 AD).]

so crabbed, so mean and slavish, that in a short time I was quite weary of it. I carefully examined the ways and means by which Lawyers attain to Riches and Dignities, and found there was much of fraud and indirect proceeding in them, and that unless I did comply with men of that Calling in all these vices, I should never get either Wealth or Credit by my practice. Now being naturally inclined to Ease and Pleasure, and loving frankness and honesty, I clearly perceived I was no ways fit for that Employment. So while I was thinking and contriving how to cast it off with some plausible reason, a fatal accident took away my loving Mother; and although her death made me absolute Master of my self and Estate, yet it laid so much grief and sorrow on my heart, that all things at home became odious to me, insomuch that I made a strong resolution to leave my Native Land, if not for ever, at least for a long time.

Pursuant to this design I disposed of all my Concerns, except of a small Estate in Land, which I reserved for a place of retreat in case of necessity, leaving it in the hands of a faithful Friend, who ever since gave me a very good account of it so long as he could hear from me. Having in that manner ordered my affairs and taken leave of my best friends, I travelled into the chiefest Provinces of the Kingdom of *France* 'till I came to the famous City of *Paris*, where I spent almost two years without going above fifty or sixty Miles from it. But the former desire of seeing more Countries, and an opportunity while I was there of travelling into *Germany* made me depart from that Populous City to go and see the several Courts of the German Princes, those of the Kings of *Swedeland* and *Denmark*, and at last the *Low-Countries*, where I made an end of my *European* travels, and rested my self, till the year 1655, in which I took shipping for the *East Indies*.

The cause and motives which induced me to take this long Voyage were these:

First, My natural curiosity of seeing Countries, and the wonderful relations I had heard or read of those remote parts of the world.

Secondly, The earnest solicitation of a Friend who had a concern in *Batavia*, and was bound for that place.

And last of all, The great gain and profits which I was told would accrue to me by this Voyage if it should prove successful.

These Arguments and Invitations easily prevailed with me, so that having in a short time ordered my affairs, and prepared my self for this purpose, I went with my friend aboard a new Ship, called the *Golden Dragon*, bound for *Batavia*. She was a Vessel of about six hundred Tuns, and thirty two Guns, and carried near four hundred People Seamen or Passengers, and great Sums of Money, where my Friend, called *Monsieur de Nuits*, had a great concern.

In order to our Voyage we weighed Anchor from the *Texel* on the twelfth day of *April* 1655, and with a fresh Easterly Wind sailed through the Channel betwixt *France* and *England* with all the speed and good success we could wish, till we came to the open Seas, and thence prosecuted our Voyage to the *Canary* Islands with variety of Winds and weather, but no Storms or Tempests.

There we took in fresh Provisions, such as the Islands afford, and which we had occasion for; and steering from thence towards the Isles of *Capo verdo* to fetch a constant Trade Wind, we came in sight of them without any accident worth my relating. It is true, we saw several Sea Monsters, flying Fishes, new Constellations, etc. But because those things are usual, that they have been described by others, and have for many years lost the grace of Novelties, I purposely omit them, not being willing to increase the Bulk of this Book with unnecessary relations which would but tire the Readers patience and my own.

To proceed therefore with my intended brevity, I think it will be sufficient to tell you that we made the Coasts of *Brasil*, and got there another Trade Wind, which carried us towards the Cape of *Good Hope* with indifferent good success. We doubled the Cape without any danger, and pursued our Voyage with all chearfulness and alacrity, till we came to 38 degrees of South Latitude, on the Second day of *August* of the same year 1655.

Till this time and place Fortune had smiled upon us, but now she began to frown, for about three or four a clock in the afternoon the Sky began to change its former clearness and serenity into thick Clouds, Lightnings and Thunders, which were the forerunners of the vehement Winds, Rain, Hail and Tempest, which succeeded soon after. The very approach of this violent storm did much terrifie our Seamen, and although they had time to take down their Sails, tie fast their Guns, and order every thing as they thought fit, yet foreseeing the terrible Hurricane that hapned immediately after, they could not chuse but dread the violence and fierceness of it.

The Sea began to foam, and turn its smooth Surface into Mountains and Vales. The Winds ran all the points of the Compass in less than two hours time. Our Ship was tossed to and fro, up and down again, in the horridest manner imaginable; one Wind drove us forward, and another beat us back again; our Masts, Yards, and Tackling were broken, and the storm was so violent that a great part of our Seamen being sick could hardly hear and obey command.

All this while our Passengers were kept under Deck, and my Friend and I lay at the main Mast sadly cast down, and both repenting, he for his covetous desire of gain, and I for my foolish curiosity. We wished our

selves a hundred times in *Holland*, and as often despaired ever to see it again, or any other Land, for any would have served our turn then. He was a very honest young man, but no Souldier nor Seaman. At the beginning of the storm I was full of courage, and well resolved to submit to the will of God without any murmuring or fear of dying, but he did not understand that Philosophy, the dreadful image of Death appeared to him with all his horror, and I think I might have seen it in his face if we had not been in the dark. I have admired he did not die for the very fear of it: At first he sigh'd and groaned only, but a while after, when the storm increased, he broke out into the saddest howling in the world.

He accused his Fathers Counsel and Command, who had sent him, but chiefly his own folly in obeying. He called his dear Mother, Brother, and Sisters, and bad them an Eternal Farewel, as likewise his beloved Country, which he had no hopes ever to see again. He lamented and deplored the cruelty of his Fate that put an end to his life in the flower of his Age by so horrid and untimely a Death. In fine, he made such sad complaints, and was so eloquent in his affliction, that I was moved with Compassion more than with the fear of being drowned. Pity first wrought upon my heart, and drove out of it all the Stoicity my reason had laid there in store; then fear and infirmity came in, so that I began to howl and lament with my afflicted Friend, as if I had been as weak as he, and had it not been for some ridiculous Expressions of his, which made me sometimes laugh, I think I had been as much dejected as he.

Mans weakness and simplicity is much to be admired in such occasions as this, and shews that Custom, Prejudices, and Opinions, have more influence upon his mind than true reason he so much boasts of, and which in such occurrences as this forsakes him, and leaves the mastery of his Soul to weak and silly Passions. Death is but one and the same thing what shape soever it assumes to appear in, and we commonly fear the manner of Death more than Death it self.

Before this storm (wherein none of our People perished by the special Grace of God), I had been exposed to a great deal more danger than I was now; I had been exposed to the mouth of Canons, I had fought in Battles, and in Sieges, where many thousands of men had lost their lives, and where we marched upon the slain to a seeming inevitable Death: Yet the fear of it did hardly make an Impression on my heart because it was an usual thing, and the contempt of danger as much accounted courage and gallantry as the fear of it cowardliness and infamy, yet death is still but one and the same thing.

While my Friend and I were thus lamenting, the master and his Crew were not asleep, neither did they neglect any thing that could contribute to our preservation; They used all their art, and all their endeav-

ours, some about the Stern, some about the Pumps, and others about several other parts of the Ship; and God did so bless their labour, that they kept her up while the violent Hurricane lasted, which at last fell into one particular Wind, that got the mastery of the others, and drove us to the Southward with so great rapidity that we were not able to keep out of that Course, but must yield to his violence. After two days running that Course the Wind changed a little, and drove us to the Southeast for the space of three days, the weather being so foggy that we could see nothing at five or six yards distance. On the sixth day the Wind slaked a little, but drove us still to the Southeast till towards night, when of a sudden we felt a very great Calm, just as if our Ship had fallen into a Pool or dead Lake, which caused no small wonder in us. Two or three hours after we were thus becalmed the weather cleared up, and we spied a great many Stars, but could not make any good observation by them. We judged in general that we were not far from *Batavia*, and a great many Leagues from the South Continent: But it proved afterwards we were much deceived in our Conjecture. The seventh day we continued in this great Calm, as if we had been ordered to celebrate the Sabbath day after six days labour and toyl; during this Calm we searched and examined all the parts of our Ship, and found her pretty tight, though she was a new Ship, and had never gone a Voyage before. But she was so strongly built that she endured the rage of the Seas without springing any Leak able to endamage her. The eighth day at Noon a fine breeze began to blow, and drove us to the Eastward, much to our joy and satisfaction, for besides that it made for our purpose, we were afraid of being becalmed; at night the weather grew dark and misty, and the Wind stiff and violent, so that we feared another storm. The Fog continued all the day following, and the wind blowing by fits and puffs, which did sometimes put us to great danger; at night the wind changed, grew boisterous, and drove us again to the Southeast with great impetuosity, the Fog growing still thicker and thicker. About the middle of the night, Wind being very high, and our Ship running very swiftly, she struck of a sudden upon a Bank, much contrary to our expectation, and stuck there so fast that she remained there without any motion as if she had been nailed to the place. Then did we think our selves absolutely lost, and looked every moment to see our Ship staved in pieces by the fury of the Seas and Wind, and every body fell to his Prayers seeing neither Art nor Industry could avail. But God, whose mercies are great, shewed us salvation where we expected nothing but destruction; for the Morning being come, and the Sun having expelled the darkness of the Night, and dissipated the thickness of the Fog, we saw that our Vessel stuck upon a Bank near the shore of a great Island or Continent. The discovery of this Land turned our despair

into hopes, for although it was unknown to us, and we could not tell what good or bad fortune we should have in it: Yet any Land was then welcome to men who had during many days been so miserably tossed upon the water betwixt life and death, hopes and despair.

About Noon the weather grew very clear and hot, the Sun overpowering the Mist and Fog, and the Wind abating much of his violence, so that the Sea did by degrees lose much of his rage and agitation. In the Afternoon about three a Clock it Ebb'd from the shore, and left our Ship with less than five foot of water upon a kind of a muddy Sand where she stuck very fast. The place where she stuck was not above a Musket shot from a pretty high but accessible shore, whither we resolv'd to remove our selves and our goods whatever should come on't, and in order to it our Long-boat was let down, and twelve of our stoutest men were sent ashore well armed to discover the Country, and to chuse a place near the Sea where we might encamp with some safety without going far from our Ship. As soon as they were landed they carefully view'd the Country from the top of a rising ground not far from the shore, but saw neither Houses, nor Inhabitants, nor any signs of either, the Country being but a Sandy barren Land, where grew nothing but bushes and little shrubs wild and savage. They could see neither River nor Brook in the parts they had discovered; and not having time to make a farther search that day, nor counting it prudence to venture any farther into so unknown a place, they came back to the Ship three hours after their landing. The next Morning we sent them ashore again with provisions, and order to send the Boat back again to fetch our People by degrees, and likewise our Provisions and Goods, which were all whole by Gods mercy without any the least damage. All these Orders were executed with great care and diligence, so that the day after our being cast upon the Bank we got all ashore with a good part of our Provisions and Goods most useful and necessary. The first who landed pitched the Camp on the side of a rising ground near the Sea over against our Vessel, which could cover us on the Land side from being seen by any body that should come towards the shore, and afforded us a convenient station for a Sentinel to discover a good way round about. Thither did we by degrees carry our goods, leaving in the Ship but ten or twelve men to keep her till we could tow her off upon high water, if it was possible, or dispose of her otherwise.

One of the first things we did so soon as we were landed was to call a Council, to advise what order we should take for our mutual preservation. It was presently resolv'd that we should keep for the present upon the Land the same order and discipline we kept at Sea, till such times we should think fit to alter it; so after this resolution it was agreed, we should humble our selves before God Almighty, to give him most hearty

thanks for preserving our lives and goods in so special a manner, and to implore his divine assistance for the future in a place altogether unknown to us, and where we might fall into the hands of some barbarous people, or starve there for want of Provisions, if he in his mercy did not provide for us as he had done heretofore.

After this Resolution and humiliation our Officers divided our People into three equal parts, whereof two were ordered incessantly to work about the Camp in drawing of a Trench to secure us from any sudden invasion, and the others were employed in discovering the Country, and fetching in Wood and such kind of supplies. Those who were left aboard the Ship had orders to see what condition she was in, and what could be done with her. After an exact examination they found that her Keel was broke by the violent shock she gave against Sand, and that she stuck so fast in it, that it was impossible to tow her off if she were never so sound, so that they thought the best way was to take her in pieces, and build a Pinnace or two out of her ruines to send to *Batavia* with all speed and diligence. That Counsel was approved of, and the fittest men for that purpose were employed for the execution of it with all diligence. The parties that were sent to discover durst not venture far in the Plain for fear of some danger or ill accident, till such a time that the Camp was better fortified, and the Guns carried thither from the Ship. They brought in only Wood, and some kind of wild Berries, of which they found great quantities upon the bushes and shrubs of the place; some spreading along the shore found a very great plenty of Oysters, Muscles, and other Shell fish, which did not only refresh our People, but did also much save our Provisions, which upon examination we found could not hold out above two Months according to the ordinary allowance: The consideration whereof made us think of some way to husband it, which could be but by getting and saving. In the first place we used all diligence to get our Nets and Hooks ready, for we had found that the Sea thereabouts was very full of fish; we fed as much as we could upon the Berries of the Plain, and upon the Shell fish of the shore; and on the other side we shortned every ones allowance, and reduced it to eight ounces a day of the Ships Provisions. But our greatest want was sweet water, for although we had made a Well in the Trench that afforded as much of it as we could use, yet it was somewhat brackish and ungrateful by reason of the nearness of the Sea.

Our adventurers made every day some new discovery, and having gone so far as almost Ten Miles about the Camp without finding any the least sign that the Country was inhabited grew every day bolder and bolder; They saw no living Creature in all this sandy Plain, but some Snakes, a kind of a Rat almost as big as a Rabbet, and some kind of Birds

like wild Pigeons, but somewhat bigger, who fed upon the Berries we have made mention of. They killed some of them with their Guns and brought them to the Camp, where after trial they were found to be very good meat, especially the Birds.

These new discoveries made us a little remiss in our Fortifications, and we contented our selves by drawing a small Trench about our Camp, casting up the Earth inwardly, and thought it was enough in a place where we found no Inhabitants. We planted some Guns upon the most convenient places, and setting all thoughts of fear aside, dreaded nothing so much as hunger, and the injuries we might receive from the weather, which we were not yet acquainted with, for it had proved very temperate since our Landing upon that Coast, where we had been fourteen days before our Pinnacle could be perfected. But about the seventeenth day she was ready to put to Sea with Provision for Eight men for six weeks time, which was as much as ever we could spare. Now there arose great strife amongst the Seamen about the sending of the Pinnacle to *Battavia*, for few would venture on that Voyage, yet it was necessary that some should go. Whereupon it was agreed that a number of the best Seamen should be taken out of the whole Cruue, and that they should cast Lots among themselves to determine the difference, which was done accordingly. The Lot fell upon the Master himself, upon a Seaman called *Prince*, and six more, whose names I have forgotten. They seeing it was the will of Fortune that they should go, submitted to it joyfully, and after having agreed upon a Signal we should give them, to find us out if ever they should come again with relief, and taking their leave of the Company, they went aboard the Pinnacle and with a good Land Gale sailed to the Eastward till they were out of our sight. We made publick Prayers for their prosperity with many sighs and tears, trusting in Gods goodness and mercy.

The same day we advised among our selves what kind of Government we should keep as most convenient for our present Condition, for some of our Officers being gone in the Pinnacle our Sea Discipline was somewhat altered, neither did we judge it proper for the Land, upon better consideration.

The business was debated *Pro* and *Con*, but after some contestation it was agreed that we should live in a Military Discipline under a Captain General. And other inferiour Officers, which together should compose a Sovereign Council of War with Authority to direct and order every thing absolutely. Now the question was whom we should chuse of all the Company. All were inclined to defer that honour to *Van de Nuits*, my Friend, as being the Person of most eminent quality among them, and who had greatest concern in the Ship, but he modestly

excused himself, alledging that he was young and unexperienced in Military Affairs, and therefore not fit for such Command, and that it was necessary in such an occasion to make choice of a Person of riper years and greater experience in that kind than himself was, who never was a Souldier. Then, observing some trouble and irresolution in their faces, he went on in this manner:

Gentlemen, I give you many thanks for the esteem and good will you shew towards me, and wish heartily I were worthy of it, and capable of this Command; But since I cannot be your General my self, give me leave to recommend one to you who is very fit for that Imployment, having been a Commander in Europe in two several Armies and a great Traveller in most parts of the Christian World. You know his Person, and I dare say you do all love and esteem of him as I do, although he is not so well known to you as he is to me, who have had long experience of his probity and good Conduct. Then (poynting to me) he said, The Person I mean is Captain Siden, to whose Command and Authority I will readily submit if you please to chuse him for our General.

This unexpected Speech, and the looks of the Company, who all turned their eyes upon me, put me somewhat out of Countenance, but being soon come to my self, I answered, That his recommendation proceeded more out of affection and love than out of any knowledge of either merit or good Conduct in me; that I was a Foreigner among them, and born in a Country far from *Holland*, and that I thought there were many in the Company far more capable of that Command than I was, and therefore desired to be excused, chusing rather to obey my betters than to use any Authority over them. I had no sooner ended my Speech, but one *Swart* (a stout and active fellow, who never went out of my company in all the discoveries we had made in the Country) took me up somewhat briskly, and said:

Sir, All these excuses will not serve your turn, and if Mr. Van de Nuits counsel and mine be taken you shall be our General whether you will or no; for besides what he hath worthily spoken of you, all the Company (and I particularly) know that since we were cast upon this Land you have shewed your self most active and industrious for the common good and preservation of all, and are therefore most fit to command us. We are Seamen and Traders, altogether ignorant of Military Discipline, which you alone can teach us here, since there is no body among us that understands it, and who is so well qualified as your self; upon which consideration I declare that you are the only fit person to command us, and that I will submit to no mans command but yours.

This blunt Fellows Speech, which he pronounced with a strong and loud voice, did so affect the minds of the Company, already disposed by *Van de Nuits* recommendation, that all with one voice cried out, Captain *Siden* must be our General.

When I saw I could not avoid the taking of this Command, I made sign for silence, and spake to them in this manner:

Gentlemen, Since you force me to accept of this Command, I accept it with thanks to you all, and do heartily wish your choice may prove to your advantage and satisfaction. But that all things may be done in good order, and carried on vigorously I beg a few things of you, which if you please to grant me I will do my best endeavour to preserve you from all danger, and to keep you in that Civil Discipline and Society which may best conduce to the Publick Good.

The first thing I beg, That every man here will take an Oath to obey mine and the Councils Authority without any repugnancy, upon pain of such punishments as we shall think fit to inflict upon them.

The Second is, That I may have the priviledge of chusing the Principal Officers to be elected, and they to bear such Commands and Offices as I shall bestow upon them for the time.

In the third place I beg, That in Council my single Vote may pass for three Votes.

Lastly, That I or my Deputy may have a Negative Voice in all Publick deliberations.

All these Priviledges and Prerogatives were presently granted me, and I was saluted by all the Multitude in the quality of their General, and had a Tent larger than ordinary set up in the middle of the Camp for the first Badge of my Authority. I lay in it that night with *Van de Nuits*, and had his advice in several things, which were afterwards put in execution.

The next day we called all our People together, and in their presence I made *Van de Nuits* Over-seer General of all the Goods and Provisions we had, or should hereafter have. *Swart* Captain of the Artillery, Arms, and Ammunitions of War. *Maurice*, an expert and active Seaman, Admiral of our Fleet, which was to consist of a Long-boat, a little Boat, and another Pinnace we were a making out of the pieces of our broken Ship. *Morton*, an English man, who had been a Serjeant in the *Low Countries*; I made Captain of the Eldest Company. *De Haes*, a sober and vigilant fellow, was made second Captain, one *Van Sluis*, third Captain, one *de Bosch*, fourth Captain, and one *Brown*, Major General.

I gave all these men leave to chuse their inferiour Officers with my approbation, which they did accordingly.

I had two Servants with me, the one called *Devese*, who had been my Serjeant in *Catalonia*, a stout and understanding fellow, sober, and trusty, who had served me ever since I left the Wars, and followed my fortune every where, him I made my Lieutenant General; and the other, named *Tursi*, my Secretary.

Our Officers being all chosen, we numbred our People, and found we were three hundred and seven Men, three Boys, and seventy four Women, all in good health; for although there were many of them sick when they first landed, they were all well again in less than a Weeks time, which was no small argument of the healthiness of the Country. I distributed all these into four parts, and gave *Maurice* six and twenty of the best Seamen, and the three boys, to man his Navy. *Swart* had thirty for his Artillery. I disposed two hundred men into four Companies, and *Van de Nuits* had all the rest to attend him, and take Orders of him in the Camp, or out of the Camp. We had two Trumpetters, which used to say Prayers in the Ship besides their Office of Trumpetting. I took one of them, and gave *Van de Nuits* the other, and they both were confirmed in both their employments after the Dutch fashion.

All our Affairs being so ordered and settled, in the Evening I called our Superiour Officers together, and told them, that before our Provisions were all spent we should go about by Sea and Land to discover the Country, and endeavour to get some fresh Provision, as likewise to discover some fitter place for a Camp than that we were in, where in a short time all things would grow scarce, and where we had not so much as good water. That my opinion was we should send several Parties of men well Armed to make new discoveries, and go farther into the Country than we had gone yet. They readily assented to my Proposals, and told me they were ready to obey my Orders.

Whereupon I commanded *Maurice* to man his two Boats, and to send them all along the Coasts, as far as they could conveniently go, the one, on the right side of the Camp, and the other, on the left. I ordered *Morton* to take twenty men out of his Company, and to go all along the shore on the left hand. *De Haes* was commanded to take thirty out of his, and to go through the middle of the Country; and I my self drew forty men out of the two other Companies, and left my Lieutenant to command in the Camp in my absence.

We all took three days Provision, and good store of Powder and Bullets, with Swords and half Pikes, and I commanded all my men to be ready early in the Morning, and to wait for further Orders, which they did accordingly. The next day, which was the twentieth since the first day

of our Landing, and from which we shall hereafter reckon as our principal *Epoche*, all my men were ready by break of day, and came to receive my Commands, which were the same I had given the night before, with this Addition only: That if they should meet with any thing considerable they should presently send advice thereof to the Camp. I likewise gave Orders to *Morton* to keep with the Boat as near as he could, and to come every night to the shore to joyn with the Boats-Crew before Sun setting, I my self intending to keep the same Method with *Maurice*.

As soon as these Orders were given we went our several ways all full of hopes and alacrity. I marched my men in Rank and File, and I divided them into three Parties, the first that had the Van was composed of six Musketeers and a Corporal, the second of twelve and a Serjeant, I my self brought up the Rear.

We marched within Musket shot distance one from another in that manner as near the shore as we could, that we might be within sight of our Boat. The Sea was very calm, and the Weather very still, though something hot. At noon the Boat came to us at a place where we stood near the shore, and there we took some rest and refreshment for the space of two hours. All the Country we came upon for ten or twelve Miles was much like to that about our Camp, and we did not so much as find a Brook or a Spring in all our way, all being dry Sands, and nothing growing upon them but Bushes and Thorns. After we had taken some rest, we marched five Miles beyond the place where we had halted, and there the ground began to grow more unequal and to rise here and there into small Hills. Two Miles farther we found a Brook of sweet water, which gave us no small occasion of joy, chiefly when we saw that a little farther up in the Country there was some small plots of green Trees upon the Banks of the Brook; there we halted again, and made Signs to our Boat to come to us, which they did immediately, coming into the Brook with the Tide; and finding it was a very good Harbour for such a Vessel as theirs, they rowed up a Mile into the Land till they came to a plot of green trees, where we pitched our Camp for that night. *Maurice* brought us some Fish he had taken in the Sea, and some Oysters, and other Shell fish. We strook fire, went to Supper an hour before night, and then to sleep, keeping good Guard about us, and hiding our fire with green Boughs we fixed in the ground round about it lest it should be seen at a distance. The next day early in the morning I sent three of my men back again to the Camp to give them notice of the Brook and the Trees we had found, and to tell them we intended to proceed farther. But before we removed from that place I sent five men up the Brook to discover more of the Country. They came back two hours after, and told us that the Country above was a little more Hilly than below, but dry and

barren, and like that which lay towards our Camp. Our Boat fell down towards the Sea after these men were come with this account, and had carried us over the Brook, which was deep and not fordable, unless we went two or three Miles higher. When we had got over we marched on along the shore still within sight of our Boat, and found that the Country grew more and more unequal.

When we had gone five or six Miles further we came to a pretty high Hill, which was barren and without Trees. We got on the top of it, and from thence discovered a Wood of tall Trees four or five Miles beyond this Hill, which Trees stood upon a high ground that shot a good way into the Sea.

At the sight of these green Trees we did much rejoyce, and resolved to go thither after we had taken a little refreshment. We marched on through a Sandy Plain that lay betwixt us and the Wood, and reached the foot of the high ground in less than two hours time, got up into the Wood, and found it did consist of very lofty Trees, not thick, and under which there was not much under-wood, so that it was easily pervious; there I kept my men very close to one another, and doubled the Van, that they might be the more able to resist if they should be set upon by any men or fierce Beast. As we went we cut down several Boughs, and strewed them upon the ground, whereby we might know the way we came in our return. In that manner we marched on in as direct a Line as we could till we came to the other side of the Wood, where we spied the Sea again, and saw Trees over the Water at six or seven Miles distance, which demonstrated to us that this water was a great Bay between two Capes.

The place was very delightful to behold, and afforded a very fine prospect over the Bay, which made us wish we had been cast away nearer to it than we were. We had left our Boat on the other side of the Wood by reason of the great way she must go about before we could meet her again. I sent down ten of my men to the Water side, where they found a vast quantity of Oysters, and other Shel-fish, which was no small encouragement. As soon as they were come up I sent three men to *Maurice*, and bid him row as fast as he could towards the head of the Cape, where he should meet with a Party I intended to send immediately that way. I sent another Party towards the inner part of the Wood on the Land side to see if they could find any sweet water. Those who went towards the head of the Cape travelled almost two Miles before they found any, but at last they perceived a Declivity in the ground, which led them down into a kind of a Vale, very full of green and thick Trees, at the bottom of which they found a fine stream of sweet water, running into the Bay. In this pleasant place they stopped, and sent three of their Company to bring