THE ESSAYS
THE WISDOM
OF THE
ANCEINTS
NEW ATLANTIS

BY
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NEW ATLANTIS
TO THE READER

This fable my lord devised, to the end that he might exhibit therein a model or description of a college, instituted for the interpreting of nature, and the producing of great and marvellous works for the benefit of man, under the name of Solomon's House, or the College of the Six Days' Works. And even so far his lordship hath proceeded as to finish that part. Certainly the model is more vast and high than can possibly be imitated in all things, notwithstanding most things therein are within men's power to effect. His lordship thought also in this present fable to have composed a frame of laws, or of the best state or mould of a commonwealth; but foreseeing it would be a long work, his desire of collecting the natural history diverted him, which he preferred many degrees before it.

RAWLEY.
NEW ATLANTIS

We sailed from Peru (where we had continued by the space of one whole year), for China and Japan, by the South Sea, taking with us victuals for twelve months; and had good winds from the east, though soft and weak, for five months' space and more; but then the wind came about, and settled in the west for many days, so as we could make little or no way, and were sometimes in purpose to turn back. But then again there arose strong and great winds from the south, with a point east, which carried us up, for all that we could do, towards the north, by which time our victuals failed us, though we had made good spare of them. So that finding ourselves in the midst of the greatest wilderness of waters in the world, without victual, we gave ourselves for lost men, and prepared for death. Yet we did lift up our hearts and voices to God above, who showeth His wonders in the deep, beseeching Him of His mercy, that as in the beginning He discovered the face of the deep, and brought forth dry land, so He would now discover land to us, that we might not perish. And it came to pass that the next day, about evening, we saw within a kenning * before us, towards the north, as it were, thick clouds, which did put us in some hope of land, knowing how that part of the South Sea was utterly unknown,

* A kenning, as far as one can see. John Palsgrave, in "Lesclarcissement de la Langue Francoys" (1530), explains "Je blanchis" by "I am within syght, as a shyppe is that cometh within the kennyng."
and might have islands, or continents, that hitherto were not come to light.* Wherefore we bent our course thither, where we saw the appearance of land all that night; and in the dawning of the next day we might plainly discern that it was a land, flat to our sight, and full of boscage;† which made it show the more dark. And after an hour and a half sailing, we entered into a good haven, being the port of a fair city—not great, indeed, but well built, and that gave a pleasant view from the sea. And we, thinking every minute long till we were on land, came close to the shore, and offered to land; but straightways we saw divers of the people, with bastons in their hands, as it were, forbidding us to land; yet without any cries of fierceness, but only as warning us off by signs that they made. Whereupon, being not a little discomfited, we were advising with our-

* Islands, or continents, that hitherto were not come to light. Existing maps, of which the earliest is in the British Museum, prove that the Portuguese had as early as 1540 a belief that there was much land in the region now known as Australia. It is figured south of Java as a great region called, “Jave la Grande.” A map by a Jean Rotz, in an English volume of 1542, repeats this representation, calling the great southern continent “The Londe of Java,” and Java “The Lytill Java.” In the introduction to Mr. R. H. Major’s edition for the Hakluyt Society (1859) of “Early Voyages to Terra Australis, now called Australia,” will be found very interesting results of an inquiry into the growth from suspicion to vague knowledge of the existence of an unexplored Austral land, of which it was said in a book by Cornelius Wytfliet, published at Louvain, in 1598, that “its shores are hitherto but little known, since after one voyage and another, that route has been deserted, and seldom is the country visited unless when sailors are driven there by storms. The Australis Terra begins at two or three degrees from the equator, and is maintained by some to be of so great an extent that if it were thoroughly explored, it would be regarded as a fifth part of the world.” In 1606 a part of the Australian coast was visited by the Dutch yacht, the Duyphen. In the same year, Luis Vaez de Torres, a Spaniard, passed through Torres Straits, which separate Australia from New Guinea. Bacon’s knowledge went no farther, but the Dutch were busy in the southern seas during the last years of his life, and in 1642, fourteen years after his death, began the discoveries of Abel Jans Tasman.

† Boscage, wood, thicket. An old French word; modern French, “bocage.” So, a little later, bastons, sticks or staves, ∈tions.
selves what we should do; during which time there made forth to us a small boat with about eight persons in it, whereof one of them had in his hand a tipstaff of a yellow cane, tipped at both ends with blue, who came aboard our ship without any show of distrust at all. And when he saw one of our number present himself somewhat afore the rest, he drew forth a little scroll of parchment (somewhat yellower than our parchment, and shining like the leaves of writing-tables, but otherwise soft and flexible), and delivered it to our foremost man. In which scroll were written in ancient Hebrew, and in ancient Greek, and in good Latin of the school, and in Spanish, these words: “Land ye not, none of you; and provide to be gone from this coast within sixteen days, except you have further time given you. Meanwhile, if you want fresh water, or victual, or help for your sick, or that your ship needeth repair, write down your wants, and you shall have that which belongeth to mercy.” This scroll was signed with a stamp of cherubims’ wings, not spread, but hanging downwards; and by them a cross. This being delivered, the officer returned, and left only a servant with us to receive our answer. Consulting hereupon amongst ourselves, we were much perplexed. The denial of landing and hasty warning us away troubled us much; on the other side to find that the people had languages, and were so full of humanity, did comfort us not a little. And above all, the sign of the cross to that instrument was to us a great rejoicing, and, as it were, a certain presage of good. Our answer was in the Spanish tongue: “That for our ship, it was well, for we had rather met with calms and contrary winds than any tempests; for our sick, they were many, and in very ill case, so that if they were not permitted to land they ran danger of their lives.” Our other wants we set down in particular; adding, that we had some little store of merchandise, which, if it pleased them to deal for, it
might supply our wants without being chargeable unto them. We offered some reward in pistolets* unto the servant, and a piece of crimson velvet to be presented to the officer; but the servant took them not, nor would scarce look upon them; and so left us, and went back in another little boat, which was sent for him.

About three hours after we had despatched our answer, there came towards us a person (as it seemed) of place. He had on him a gown with wide sleeves, of a kind of water chamolett,† of an excellent azure colour, far more glossy than ours. His under apparel was green, and so was his hat, being in the form of a turban, daintily made, and not so huge as the Turkish turbans, and the locks of his hair came down below the brims of it—a reverend man was he to behold. He came in a boat, gilt in some part of it, with four persons more only in that boat; and was followed by another boat, wherein were some twenty. When he was come within a flight-shot of our ship, signs were made to us that we should send forth some to meet him upon the water, which we presently‡ did in our ship-boat, sending the principal man amongst us save one, and four of our number with him. When we were come within six yards of their boat, they called to us to stay, and not to approach farther, which we did. And thereupon the man whom I before described stood up, and with a loud voice, in Spanish, asked, “Are ye Christians?” We answered we were; fearing the less because of the cross we had seen

* Pistolets were gold coins two grains lighter than ducats. The ducat weighed 2 dwt. 6 gr. There were also double pistolets and double ducats.

† Chamolett, chamlet or camlet. Spanish “camelote” and “chamelote,” a stuff originally made of camels’ hair, afterwards of hair and silk, and then of wool and thread. It had a wavy or watered gloss, and in the latest cheapened form was used as a material for cloaks comparatively waterproof, until the application of caoutchouc to other fabrics.

‡ Presently, immediately.
in the subscription. At which answer the said person lifted up his right hand towards Heaven, and drew it softly to his mouth (which is the gesture they use when they thank God), and then said, "If ye will swear, all of you, by the merits of the Saviour, that ye are no pirates, nor have shed blood, lawfully nor unlawfully, within forty days past, you may have license to come on land." We said we were all ready to take that oath. Whereupon, one of those that were with him, being, as it seemed, a notary, made an entry of this act. Which done, another of the attendants of the great person, which was with him in the same boat, after his lord had spoken a little to him, said aloud, "My lord would have you know that it is not of pride or greatness that he cometh not aboard your ship, but for that, in your answer, you declare that you have many sick amongst you, he was warned by the Conservator of Health of the city that he should keep a distance." We bowed ourselves towards him and answered, "We were his humble servants, and accounted for great honour and singular humanity towards us that which was already done; but hoped well that the nature of the sickness of our men was not infectious." So he returned; and awhile after came the notary to us aboard our ship, holding in his hand a fruit of that country, like an orange, but of colour between orange-tawny and scarlet, which cast a most excellent odour; he used it, as it seemeth, for a preservative against infection. He gave us our oath, by the name of Jesus and His merits, and after told us that the next day, by six of the clock in the morning, we should be sent to, and brought to the Strangers' House (so he called it), where we should be accommodated of things, both for our whole and for our sick. So he left us; and when we offered him some pistolets, he smiling said, "He must not be twice paid for one labour;" meaning, as I take it, that he had
salary sufficient of the State for his service. For, as I after learned, they call an officer that taketh rewards, twice paid.

The next morning early there came to us the same officer that came to us at first with his cane, and told us he came to conduct us to the Strangers' House, and that he had prevented* the hour because we might have the whole day before us for our business. "For," said he, "if you will follow my advice, there shall first go with me some few of you, and see the place, and how it may be made convenient for you; and then you may send for your sick, and the rest of your number, which ye will bring on land." We thanked him, and said, "That this care which he took of desolate strangers God would reward." And so six of us went on land with him. And when we were on land he went before us, and turned to us and said, "He was but our servant and our guide." He led us through three fair streets, and all the way we went there were gathered some people on both sides, standing in a row, but in so civil a fashion, as if it had been not to wonder at us, but to welcome us. And divers of them, as we passed by them, put their arms a little abroad, which is their gesture when they bid any welcome. The Strangers' House is a fair and spacious house, built of brick, of somewhat a bluer colour than our brick, and with handsome windows, some of glass, some of a kind of cambric oiled. He brought us first into a fair parlour above stairs, and then asked us what number of persons we were, and how many sick? We answered, "We were in all (sick and whole) one and fifty persons, whereof our sick were seventeen." He desired us to have patience a little, and to stay till he came back to us, which was about an hour after; and then he led us to

* Prevented, come before, the strict meaning of the word. As in the prayer to God in one of the Collects of the English Church that His grace "may always prevent and follow us."
see the chambers which were provided for us, being in number nineteen. They having cast it (as it seemeth) that four of those chambers, which were better than the rest, might receive four of the principal men of our company, and lodge them alone by themselves; and the other fifteen chambers were to lodge us two and two together. The chambers were handsome and cheerful chambers, and furnished civilly. Then he led us to a long gallery, like a dorture,* where he showed us all along the one side (for the other side was but wall and window) seventeen cells, very neat ones, having partitions of cedar wood, which gallery and cells, being in all forty (many more than we needed) were instituted as an infirmary for sick persons. And he told us withal, that as any of our sick waxed well, he might be removed from his cell to a chamber, for which purpose there were set forth ten spare chambers besides the number we spake of before. This done, he brought us back to the parlour, and lifting up his cane a little (as they do when they give any charge or command), said to us, “Ye are to know that the custom of the land requireth that after this day and tomorrow (which we give you for removing of your people from your ship) you are to keep within doors for three days. But let it not trouble you, nor do not think yourselves restrained, but rather left to your rest and ease. You shall want nothing, and there are six of our people appointed to attend you for any business you may have abroad.” We gave him thanks with all affection and respect, and said, “God surely is manifested in this land.” We offered him also twenty pistolets; but he smiled, and only said, “What? twice paid!” and so he left us. Soon after our dinner was served in, which was right good viands, both for bread and meat, better than any collegiate diet that I have known in Europe.

We had also drink of three sorts, all wholesome and good: wine of the grape, a drink of grain (such as is with us our ale, but more clear), and a kind of cider made of a fruit of that country—a wonderful pleasing and refreshing drink. Besides, there were brought in to us great store of those scarlet oranges for our sick, which, they said, were an assured remedy for sickness taken at sea. There was given us also a box of small grey, or whitish, pills, which they wished our sick should take, one of the pills every night before sleep, which, they said, would hasten their recovery. The next day, after that our trouble of carriage, and removing of our men and goods out of our ship was somewhat settled and quiet, I thought good to call our company together, and when they were assembled, said unto them, "My dear friends,—Let us know ourselves, and how it standeth with us. We are men cast on land, as Jonas was, out of the whale's belly, when we were as buried in the deep; and now we are on land. We are but between death and life, for we are beyond both the old world and the new; and whether ever we shall see Europe, God only knoweth. It is a kind of miracle hath brought us hither, and it must be little less that shall bring us hence. Therefore, in regard of our deliverance past, and our danger present and to come, let us look up to God, and every man reform his own ways. Besides, we are come here amongst a Christian people, full of piety and humanity; let us not bring that confusion of face upon ourselves, as to show our vices or unworthiness before them. Yet there is more, for they have by commandment (though in form of courtesy) cloistered us within these walls for three days; who knoweth whether it be not to take some taste of our manners and conditions? And if they find them bad, to banish us straightways; if good, to give us further time; for these men that they have given us for attendance may withal have an eye upon us. Therefore, for God's love, and as we love the weal
of our souls and bodies, let us so behave ourselves as we may be at peace with God, and may find grace in the eyes of this people." Our company with one voice thanked me for my good admonition, and promised me to live soberly and civilly, and without giving any the least occasion of offence. So we spent our three days joyfully and without care, in expectation what would be done with us when they were expired; during which time we had every hour joy of the amendment of our sick, who thought themselves cast into some divine pool of healing, they mended so kindly and so fast.

The morrow after our three days were passed there came to us a new man, that we had not seen before, clothed in blue, as the former was, save that his turban was white, with a small red cross on the top; he had also a tippet of fine linen. At his coming in he did bend to us a little, and put his arms abroad. We on our parts saluted him in a very lowly and submissive manner, as looking that from him we should receive sentence of life or death. He desired to speak with some few of us, whereupon six of us only stayed, and the rest avoided the room. He said: "I am by office governor of this House of Strangers, and by vocation I am a Christian priest, and, therefore, am come to you to offer you my service, both as strangers and chiefly as Christians. Some things I may tell you, which, I think, you will not be unwilling to hear. The State hath given you license to stay on land for the space of six weeks; and let it not trouble you if your occasions ask further time, for the law in this point is not precise; and I do not doubt but myself shall be able to obtain for you such further time as may be convenient. Ye shall also understand that the Strangers' House is at this time rich, and much beforehand, for it hath laid up revenue these thirty-seven years, for so long it is since any stranger arrived in this part. And therefore, take ye no care; the State will defray you all the
time you stay; neither shall you stay one day the less for that. As for any merchandise ye have brought, ye shall be well used, and have your return either in merchandise or in gold and silver, for to us it is all one. And if you have any other request to make, hide it not, for ye shall find we will not make your countenance to fall by the answer ye shall receive. Only this I must tell you, that none of you must go above a karan [that is with them a mile and a half] from the walls of the city without especial leave.” We answered, after we had looked awhile one upon another, admiring this gracious and parent-like usage, that we could not tell what to say, for we wanted words to express our thanks, and his noble, free offers left us nothing to ask. It seemed to us that we had before us a picture of our salvation in Heaven: for we that were a while since in the jaws of death were now brought into a place where we found nothing but consolations. For the commandment laid upon us we would not fail to obey it, though it was impossible but our hearts should be inflamed to tread further upon this happy and holy ground. We added, “That our tongues should first cleave to the roofs of our mouths ere we should forget either his reverend person or this whole nation in our prayers.” We also most humbly besought him to accept of us as his true servants, by as just a right as ever men on earth were bounden, laying and presenting both our persons and all we had at his feet. He said he was a priest, and looked for a priest’s reward, which was our brotherly love and the good of our souls and bodies. So he went from us—not without tears of tenderness in his eyes—and left us also confused with joy and kindness, saying amongst ourselves, that we were come into a land of angels, which did appear to us daily, and prevent us with comforts which we thought not of, much less expected.

The next day, about ten of the clock, the governor
came to us again, and, after salutations, said familiarly, that he was come to visit us; and called for a chair, and sat him down. And we, being some ten of us (the rest were of the meaner sort, or else gone abroad), sat down with him. And when we were sat, he began thus: "We, of this island of Bensalem [for so they call it in their language], have this: That by means of our solitary situation, and the laws of secrecy which we have for our travellers, and our rare admission of strangers, we know well most part of the habitable world, and are ourselves unknown. Therefore, because he that knoweth least is fittest to ask questions, it is more reason for the entertainment of the time that ye ask me questions than that I ask you." We answered, that we humbly thanked him that he would give us leave to do so, and that we conceived by the taste we had already that there was no wordly thing on earth more worthy to be known than the state of that happy land. But above all, we said, since that we were met from the several ends of the world, and hoped assuredly that we should meet one day in the kingdom of Heaven (for that we were both parts Christians), we desired to know (in respect that that land was so remote, and so divided by vast and unknown seas from the land where our Saviour walked on earth) who was the Apostle of that nation, and how it was converted to the faith? It appeared in his face that he took great contentment in this our question. He said: "Ye knit my heart to you by asking this question in the first place, for it showeth that you first seek the kingdom of Heaven, and I shall gladly and briefly satisfy your demand.

"About twenty years after the Ascension of our Saviour, it came to pass that there was seen by the people of Renfusa (a city upon the eastern coast of our island) within night (the night was cloudy and calm), as it might be some mile into the sea, a great pillar of light, not sharp, but in form of a column or cylinder, rising
from the sea a great way up towards Heaven; and on the
top of it was seen a large cross of light, more bright and
resplendent than the body of the pillar. Upon which so
strange a spectacle, the people of the city gathered apace
together upon the sands to wonder, and so after put them-
selves into a number of small boats, to go nearer to this
marvellous sight. But when the boats were come within
(about) sixty yards of the pillar they found themselves all
bound, and could go no further; yet so as they might
move to go about, but might not approach nearer. So
as the boats stood all as in a theatre, beholding this light
as a heavenly sign, it so fell out that there was in one of
the boats one of the wise men of the Society of Salomon's
House, which house, or college, my good brethren, is the
very eye of this kingdom, who, having awhile attentively
and devoutly viewed and contemplated this pillar and
cross, fell down upon his face, and then raised himself
upon his knees, and lifting up his hands to Heaven, made
his prayers in this manner:

"'Lord God of Heaven and earth, Thou hast vouch-
safed of Thy grace to those of our order to know Thy
works of creation and the secrets of them, and to
discern (as far as appertaineth to the generations of
men) between divine miracles, works of nature, works
of art, and impostures and illusions of all sorts. I do
here acknowledge and testify before this people that
the thing which we now see before our eyes is Thy
finger, and a true miracle. And forasmuch as we
learn in our books that Thou never workest miracles
but to a divine and excellent end (for the laws of nature
are Thine own laws, and Thou exceedest them not but
upon great cause), we most humbly beseech Thee to
prosper this great sign, and to give us the interpretation
and use of it in mercy, which Thou dost in some part
secretly promise by sending it unto us.'

"When he had made his prayer, he presently found the
boat he was in movable and unbound, whereas all the rest remained still fast; and taking that for an assurance of leave to approach, he caused the boat to be softly, and with silence, rowed towards the pillar; but ere he came near it the pillar and cross of light brake up, and cast itself abroad, as it were, into a firmament of many stars, which also vanished soon after, and there was nothing left to be seen but a small ark, or chest of cedar, dry, and not wet at all with water, though it swam. And in the fore end of it, which was towards him, grew a small green branch of palm; and when the wise man had taken it, with all reverence, into his boat, it opened of itself, and there were found in it a book and a letter, both written on fine parchment, and wrapped in sindons* of linen. The book contained all the canonical books of the Old and New Testament, according as you have them (for we know well what the churches with you receive), and the Apocalypse itself, and some other books of the New Testament, which were not at that time written, were nevertheless in the book. And for the letter, it was in these words:—

"'I, Bartholomew,† a servant of the Highest, and Apostle of Jesus Christ, was warned by an angel, that appeared to me in a vision of glory, that I should commit this ark to the floods of the sea. Therefore, I do testify and declare unto that people where God shall ordain this ark to come to land, that in the same day has come

* Sindons. Sindon is a classical word (Greek, "σίνδον") for a fine Indian cotton stuff. As a delicate and soft fabric, it was fit for enveloping delicate and costly things (as we now might use cotton-wool). Sindons meant, therefore, delicate wrappings; and the word is still used in surgery for the plug of soft cotton put, to protect the brain, into the hole made in the skull by use of the trephine.

† Bartholomew is the saint named, because church legend associated him with the work of spreading the tidings of the Gospel to far lands. He was said to have preached in Greater Armenia, to have converted the Lycaonians, and to have at last carried the Gospel into India, whence he never returned.
unto them salvation and peace, and goodwill from the Father and from the Lord Jesus."

"There was also in both these writings, as well the book as the letter, wrought a great miracle, like to that of the Apostles in the original gift of tongues. For there being at that time in this land Hebrews, Persians, and Indians, besides the natives, every one read upon the book and letter, as if they had been written in his own language. And thus was this land saved from infidelity (as the remains of the Old World were from water) by an ark, through the Apostolical and miraculous evangelism of Saint Bartholomew." And here he paused, and a messenger came and called him from us. So this was all that passed in that conference.

The next day the same governor came again to us immediately after dinner, and excused himself, saying that the day before he was called from us somewhat abruptly, but now he would make us amends, and spend time with us if we held his company and conference agreeable. We answered, "That we held it so agreeable and pleasing to us as we forgot both dangers past and fears to come for the time we heard him speak. And that we thought an hour spent with him was worth years of our former life." He bowed himself a little to us, and after we were set again, he said, "Well, the questions are on your part." One of our number said, after a little pause, that there was a matter we were no less desirous to know than fearful to ask, lest we might presume too far; but, encouraged by his rare humanity towards us (that could scarce think ourselves strangers, being his vowed and professed servants), we would take the hardiness to propound it, humbly beseeching him, if he thought it not fit to be answered, that he would pardon it though he rejected it. We said, we well observed those his words which he formerly spake, that this happy island where we now stood was
known to few, and yet knew most of the nations of the world; which we found to be true, considering they had the languages of Europe, and knew much of our state and business, and yet we in Europe (notwithstanding all the remote discoveries and navigations of this last age) never heard any of the least inkling or glimpse of this island. This we found wonderful strange, for that all nations have inter-knowledge one of another, either by voyage into foreign parts, or by strangers that come to them. And though the traveller into a foreign country doth commonly know more by the eye than he that stayeth at home can by relation of the traveller, yet both ways suffice to make a mutual knowledge in some degree on both parts. But for this island, we never heard tell of any ship of theirs that had been seen to arrive upon any shore of Europe; no, nor of either the East or West Indies, nor yet of any ship of any other part of the world that had made return from them. And yet the marvel rested not in this, for the situation of it (as his lordship said) in the secret conclave* of such a vast sea might cause it. But then, that they should have knowledge of the languages, books, affairs of those that lie such a distance from them, it was a thing we could not tell what to make of; for that it seemed to us a condition and propriety of divine powers and beings to be hidden and unseen to others, and yet to have others open and as in a light to them. At this speech the governor gave a gracious smile, and said, "That we did well to ask pardon for this question we now asked, for that it imported as if we thought this land a land of magicians, that sent forth spirits of the air into all parts to bring them news and intelligence of other countries." It was answered by us all in all possible humbleness, but yet with a counten-

* Conclave, a room or space that may be locked up. From Latin "con," with, and "clavis," a key. Hence the present use of the word for a secret council.
ance taking knowledge that we knew that he spake it but merrily. That we were apt enough to think there was something supernatural in this island, but yet rather as angelical than magical. But to let his lordship know truly what it was that made us tender, and doubtful to ask this question, it was not any such conceit, but because we remembered he had given a touch in his former speech that this land had laws of secrecy touching strangers. To this he said: "You remember it aright, and therefore in that I shall say to you I must reserve some particulars which it is not lawful for me to reveal; but there will be enough left to give you satisfaction.

"You shall understand—that which, perhaps, you will scarce think credible—that about three thousand years ago, or somewhat more, the navigation of the world (especially for remote voyages) was greater than at this day. Do not think with yourselves that I know not how much it is increased with you within these six score years; I know it well, and yet I say greater than now. Whether it was that the example of the ark that saved the remnant of men from the universal deluge gave men confidence to adventure upon the waters, or what it was, but such is the truth. The Phœnicians, and specially the Tyrians, had great fleets; so had the Carthaginians their colony, which is yet further west. Towards the East the shipping of Egypt and of Palestina was likewise great; China, also, and the great Atlantis (that you call America), which have now but junks and canoes, abounded then in tall ships. This island (as appeareth by faithful registers of those times) had then fifteen hundred strong ships of great content. Of all this there is with you sparing memory, or none; but we have large knowledge thereof.

"At that time this land was known and frequented by the ships and vessels of all the nations before named. And, as it cometh to pass, they had many times men of
other countries, that were no sailors, that came with them: as Persians, Chaldeans, Arabians. So as almost all nations of might and fame resorted hither, of whom we have some stirps* and little tribes with us at this day. And for our own ships, they went sundry voyages, as well to your Straits, which you call the Pillars of Hercules,† as to other parts in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Seas; as to Pauquin (which is the same with Cambaline) ‡ and Quinzy, § upon the Oriental seas, as far as to the borders of the East Tartary.

"At the same time, and an age after or more, the inhabitants of the Great Atlantis did flourish. For though the narration and description which is made by a great man with you, that the descendants of Neptune planted there, and of the magnificent temple, palace, city, and hill, and the manifold streams of goodly navigable rivers (which as so many chains environed the same site and temple), and the several degrees of ascent, whereby men did climb up to the same, as if it had been a Scala Coeli, || be all poetical and fabulous, yet so much is true that the said country of Atlantis— as well that of Peru, then called Coya, as that of Mexico, then named Tyrambel—were mighty and proud kingdoms in arms, shipping, and riches; so mighty as at one time— or at least within the space of ten years—they both made two great expeditions: they of Tyrambel through the Atlantic to the Mediterranean Sea; and they of Coya through the South Sea upon this our island. And for the former of these, which was into Europe, the same

* Stirps, progeny. Latin, "stirps," stem, plant, shoot, stock race, offspring: used here as in Virgil's "stirps et genus omne futurum."
† Straits of Gibraltar.
‡ Cambay, in Gujerat, where trade has decayed by shallowing of the Gulf of Cambay.
§ Quinzy, the Chinese province of Quang-si.
|| Stair of Heaven.
author amongst you, as it seemeth, had some relation from the Egyptian priest whom he citeth, for assuredly such a thing there was. But whether it were the ancient Athenians that had the glory of the repulse and resistance of those forces, I can say nothing; but certain it is, there never came back either ship or man from that voyage. Neither had the other voyage of those of Coya upon us had better fortune, if they had not met with enemies of greater clemency. For the king of this island, by name Altabin, a wise man and a great warrior, knowing well both his own strength and that of his enemies, handled the matter so as he cut off their land forces from their ships, and entailed both their navy and their camp with a greater power than theirs, both by sea and land, and compelled them to render themselves without striking stroke. And after they were at his mercy, contenting himself only with their oath that they should no more bear arms against him, dismissed them all in safety. But the divine revenge overtook not long after those proud enterprises, for within less than the space of one hundred years the great Atlantis was utterly lost and destroyed. Not by a great earthquake, as your man saith (for that whole tract is little subject to earthquakes), but by a particular deluge, or inundation, those countries having at this day far greater rivers and far higher mountains to pour down waters than any part of the Old World. But it is true that the same inundation was not deep: not past forty feet in most places from the ground; so that although it destroyed man and beast generally, yet some few wild inhabitants of the wood escaped, birds also were saved by flying to the high trees and woods. For, as for men, although they had buildings in many places higher than the depth of the water, yet that inundation, though it were shallow, had a long continuance, whereby they of the vale that were not drowned perished for want of food and other
things necessary. So as marvel you not at the thin population of America, nor at the rudeness and ignorance of the people, for you must account your inhabitants of America as a young people, younger a thousand years at the least than the rest of the world; for that there was so much time between the universal flood and their particular inundation. For the poor remnant of human seed which remained in their mountains peopled the country again slowly by little and little: and being simple and savage people (not like Noah and his sons, which was the chief family of the earth), they were not able to leave letters, arts, and civility to their posterity. And having likewise in their mountainous habitations been used (in respect of the extreme cold of those regions) to clothe themselves with the skins of tigers, bears, and great hairy goats that they have in those parts, when after they came down into the valley, and found the intolerable heats which are there, and knew no means of lighter apparel, they were forced to begin the custom of going naked, which continueth at this day. Only they take great pride and delight in the feathers of birds; and this also they took from those their ancestors of the mountains, who were invited unto it by the infinite flights of birds that came up to the high grounds while the waters stood below. So you see, by this main accident of time, we lost our traffic with the Americans, with whom, of all others, in regard they lay nearest to us, we had most commerce. As for the other parts of the world, it is most manifest that in the ages following (whether it were in respect of wars, or by a natural revolution of time) navigation did everywhere greatly decay, and especially far voyages (the rather by the use of galleys, and such vessels, as could hardly brook the ocean) were altogether left and omitted. So then, that part of intercourse which could be from other nations to sail to us, you see how it hath long since ceased, except it
were by some rare accident as this of yours. But now of the cessation of that other part of intercourse which might be by our sailing to other nations, I must yield you some other cause; for I cannot say, if I shall say truly, that our shipping for number, strength, mariners, pilots, and all things that appertain to navigation, is as great as ever; and, therefore, why we should sit at home, I shall now give you an account by itself; and it will draw nearer to give you satisfaction to your principal question.

"There reigned in this island about 1,900 years ago a king, whose memory of all others we most adore: not superstitiously, but as a divine instrument though a mortal men. His name was Solamona, and we esteem him as the law-giver of our nation. This king had a large heart, inscrutable for good, and was wholly bent to make his kingdom and people happy. He, therefore, taking into consideration how sufficient and substantive this land was to maintain itself without any aid at all of the foreigner; being 5,600 miles in circuit, and of rare fertility of soil in the greatest part thereof: and finding also the shipping of this country might be plentifully set on work, both by fishing and by transportations from port to port, and likewise by sailing unto some small islands that are not far from us, and are under the crown and laws of this State: and recalling into his memory the happy and flourishing estate wherein this land then was, so as it might be a thousand ways altered to the worse, but scarce any one way to the better—thought nothing wanted to his noble and heroical intentions, but only (as far as human foresight might reach) to give perpetuity to that which was in his time so happily established. Therefore, amongst his other fundamental laws of this kingdom, he did ordain the interdicts and prohibitions which we have touching entrance of strangers, which, at that time (though it
was after the calamity of America) was frequent, doubting novelties and commixture of manners. It is true, the like law against the admission of strangers without licence is an ancient law in the kingdom of China, and yet continued in use; but there it is a poor thing, and hath made them a curious, ignorant, fearful, foolish nation. But our law-giver made his law of another temper. For first, he hath preserved all points of humanity in taking order and making provision for the relief of strangers distressed, whereof you have tasted."

At which speech, as reason was, we all rose up and bowed ourselves. He went on: "That king also, still desiring to join humanity and policy together, and thinking it against humanity to detain strangers here against their wills, and against policy that they should return and discover their knowledge of this estate, he took this course: he did ordain that of the strangers that should be permitted to land, as many at all times might depart as would; but as many as would stay should have very good conditions and means to live from the State. Wherein he saw so far, that now, in so many ages since the prohibition, we have memory not of one ship that ever returned, and but of thirteen persons only, at several times, that chose to return in our bottoms. What those few that returned may have reported abroad I know not; but you must think whatsoever they have said could be taken, where they came, but for a dream. Now for our travelling from hence into parts abroad, our law-giver thought fit altogether to restrain it. So is it not in China, for the Chinese sail where they will or can, which showeth that their law of keeping out strangers is a law of pusillanimity and fear. But this restraint of ours hath one only exception, which is admirable: preserving the good which cometh by communicating with strangers, and avoiding the hurt. And I will now open it to you; and
here I shall seem a little to digress, but you will by-and-bye find it pertinent.

"Ye shall understand, my dear friends, that amongst the excellent acts of that king, one above all hath the pre-eminence. It was the erection and institution of an order, or society, which we call Salomon's House: the noblest foundation, as we think, that ever was upon the earth, and the lanthorn of this kingdom. It is dedicated to the study of the works and creatures of God. Some think it beareth the founder's name a little corrupted, as if it should be Solamona's House, but the records write it as it is spoken. So as I take it to be denominate of the king of the Hebrews, which is famous with you and no stranger to us, for we have some parts of his works which with you are lost; namely, that Natural History which he wrote of all Plants, from the cedar of Libanus to the moss that growth out of the wall, and of all things that have life and motion. This maketh me think that our king, finding himself to symbolise in many things with that king of the Hebrews (which lived many years before him), honoured him with the title of this foundation. And I am the rather induced to be of this opinion for that I find in ancient records this order, or society, is sometimes called Salomon's House, and sometimes the College of the Six Days' Works, whereby I am satisfied that our excellent king had learned from the Hebrews that God had created the world and all that therein is within six days; and therefore, he instituting that house for the finding out of the true nature of all things (whereby God might have the more glory in the workmanship of them, and men the more fruit in the use of them), did give it also that second name. But now to come to our present purpose. When the king had forbidden to all his people navigation into any part that was not under his crown, he made, nevertheless, this ordinance: that every
twelve years there should be set forth out of this kingdom two ships appointed to several voyages; that in either of these ships there should be a mission of three of the fellows, or brethren, of Salomon's House, whose errand was only to give us knowledge of the affairs and state of those countries to which they were designed, and especially of the sciences, arts, manufactures, and inventions of all the world; and withal to bring unto us books, instruments, and patterns in every kind. That the ships, after they had landed the brethren, should return, and that the brethren should stay abroad till the new mission. These ships are not otherwise fraught than with store of victuals, and good quantity of treasure to remain with the brethren, for the buying of such things and rewarding of such persons as they should think fit. Now for me to tell you how the vulgar sort of mariners are contained from being discovered at land, and how they that must be put on shore for any time colour themselves under the names of other nations, and to what places these voyages have been designed, and what places of rendezvous are appointed for the new missions, and the like circumstances of the practice—I may not do it. Neither is it much to your desire. But thus you see we maintain a trade, not for gold, silver, or jewels; not for silks, not for spices, nor any other commodity of matter; but only for God's first creature, which was Light. To have light, I say, of the growth of all parts of the world."

And when he had said this he was silent, and so were we all; for indeed we were all astonished to hear so strange things so probably told. And he, perceiving that we were willing to say somewhat but had it not ready, in great courtesy took us off, and descended to ask us questions of our voyage and fortunes, and in the end concluded that we might do well to think with ourselves what time of stay we would demand of the State; and
bade us not to scant ourselves, for he would procure such time as we desired. Whereupon we all rose up, and presented ourselves to kiss the skirt of his tippet, but he would not suffer us, and so took his leave. But when it came once amongst our people that the State used to offer conditions to strangers that would stay, we had work enough to get any of our men to look to our ship, and to keep them from going presently to the governor to crave conditions. But with much ado we refrained them till we might agree what course to take.

We took ourselves now for free men, seeing there was no danger of our utter perdition, and lived most joyfully, going abroad, and seeing what was to be seen in the city, and places adjacent within our tether; and obtaining acquaintance with many of the city, not of the meanest quality, at whose hands we found such humanity, and such a freedom and desire to take strangers, as it were, into their bosom, as was enough to make us forget all that was dear to us in our own countries. And continually we met with many things right worthy of observation and relation; as, indeed, if there be a mirror in the world worthy to hold men's eyes, it is that country. One day there were two of our company bidden to a feast of the family, as they call it; a most natural, pious, and reverend custom it is, showing that nation to be compounded of all goodness. This is the manner of it: it is granted to any man that shall live to see thirty persons descended of his body alive together, and all above three years old, to make this feast, which is done at the cost of the State. The father of the family, whom they call the Tirsan, two days before the feast, taketh to him three of such friends as he liketh to choose, and is assisted also by the governor of the city or place where the feast is celebrated; and all the persons of the family of both sexes are summoned to attend him. These two days the Tirsan sitteth in consultation con-
cerning the good estate of the family. There, if there be any discord or suits between any of the family, they are compounded and appeased. There, if any of the family be distressed or decayed, order is taken for their relief and competent means to live. There, if any be subject to vice or take ill courses, they are reproved and censured. So, likewise, direction is given touching marriages, and the courses of life which any of them should take, with divers other the like orders and advices. The governor assisteth to the end to put in execution by his public authority the decrees and orders of the Tirsan if they should be disobeyed, though that seldom needeth, such reverence and obedience they give to the order of nature. The Tirsan doth also then ever choose one man from amongst his sons to live in house with him, who is called ever after the Son of the Vine—the reason will hereafter appear. On the feast-day the father, or Tirsan, cometh forth after divine service into a large room, where the feast is celebrated, which room hath a half-pace at the upper end. Against the wall, in the middle of the half-pace, is a chair placed for him, with a table and carpet before it. Over the chair is a state, made round or oval, and it is of ivy—an ivy somewhat whiter than ours, like the leaf of a silver asp,* but more shining, for it is green all winter. And the state is curiously wrought with silver and silk of divers colours, broiding or binding in the ivy, and is ever of the work of some of the daughters of the family, and veiled over at the top with a fine net of silk and silver; but the substance of it is true ivy, whereof, after it is taken down, the friends of the family are desirous to have some leaf or sprig to keep. The Tirsan cometh forth with all his generation or lineage, the males before him and the females following him; and if there be a mother from whose body the whole lineage is descended, there is a

* * Asp, aspen. First English, "esp." Aspen is its adjective.
traverse* placed in a loft above, on the right hand of the chair, with a privy door, and a carved window of glass leaded with gold and blue, where she sitteth, but is not seen. When the Tirsan is come forth he sitteth down in the chair, and all the lineage place themselves against the wall, both at his back and upon the return of the half-pace,† in order of their years, without difference of sex, and stand upon their feet. When he is set, the room being always full of company, but well kept and without disorder, after some pause there cometh in from the lower end of the room a taratan (which is as much as a herald), and on either side of him two young lads, whereof one carrieth a scroll of their shining yellow parchment, and the other a cluster of grapes of gold, with a long foot, or stalk. The herald and children are clothed with mantles of sea-water green satin, but the herald’s mantle is streamed with gold, and hath a train. Then the herald, with three curtseys, or rather inclinations, cometh up as far as the half-pace, and there first taketh into his hand the scroll. This scroll is the king’s charter, containing gift of revenue, and many privileges, exemptions, and points of honour granted to the father of the family; and it is ever styled and directed: “To such an one, our Well-beloved Friend and Creditor,” which is a title proper only to this case. For they say, the king is debtor to no man but for propagation of his subjects. The seal set to the king’s charter is the king’s image embossed, or moulded, in gold; and though such charters be expedited of course, and as of right, yet they are varied by discretion, according to

* Traverse, barrier or movable screen, sometimes formed only by a curtain.
† The return of the half-pace. Return is here used in the architectural sense of the continuation of a moulding, projection, etc., in a contrary direction; a part that falls away from the front of a straight work; as here the half-pace (the raised floor or scaffold), projects from the straight line of the wall.
the number and dignity of the family. This charter the herald readeth aloud, and while it is read the father, or Tirsan, standeth up, supported by two of his sons, such as he chooseth. Then the herald mounteth the half-pace, and delivereth the charter into his hand, and with that there is an acclamation by all that are present in their language, which is thus much, "Happy are the people of Bensalem." Then the herald taketh into his hand from the other child the cluster of grapes, which is of gold, both the stalk and the grapes. But the grapes are daintily enamelled; and if the males of the family be the greater number, the grapes are enamelled purple, with a little sun set on the top; if the females, then they are enamelled into a greenish-yellow, with a crescent on the top. The grapes are in number as many as there are descendants of the family. This golden cluster the herald delivereth also to the Tirsan, who presently delivereth it over to that son that he had formerly chosen to be in house with him, who beareth it before his father as an ensign of honour when he goeth in public ever after, and is thereupon called the Son of the Vine.

After this ceremony ended, the father, or Tirsan, retireth, and after some time cometh forth again to dinner, where he sitteth alone under the states as before, and none of his descendants sit with him of what degree or dignity soever, except he hap to be of Salomon’s House. He is served only by his own children, such as are male, who perform unto him all service of the table upon the knee; and the women only stand about him, leaning against the wall. The room below the half-pace hath tables on the sides for the guests that are hidden, who are served with great and comely order. And towards the end of dinner (which, in the greatest feast with them, lasteth never above an hour and a half) there is a hymn sung, varied according to the invention of him that composeth
it (for they have excellent poesy), but the subject of it is always the praises of Adam, and Noah, and Abraham, whereof the former two peopled the world, and the last was the father of the Faithful: concluding ever with a thanksgiving for the Nativity of our Saviour, in whose birth the births of all are only blessed. Dinner being done, the Tirsan retireth again, and having withdrawn himself alone into a place, where he maketh some private prayers, he cometh forth the third time to give blessing with all his descendants, who stand about him as at the first. Then he calleth them forth by one and by one, by name, as he pleaseth, though seldom the order of age be inverted. The person that is called (the table being before removed) kneeleth down before the chair, and the father layeth his hand upon his head, or her head, and giveth the blessing in these words: "Son of Bensalem [or daughter of Bensalem], thy father saith it: the man by whom thou hast breath and life speaketh the word; the blessing of the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, and the Holy Dove be upon thee, and make the days of the pilgrimage good and many." This he saith to every one of them; and that done, if there be any of his sons of eminent merit and virtue (so they be not above two), he calleth for them again, and saith, laying his arm over their shoulders, they standing, "Sons, it is well ye are born; give God the praise, and persevere to the end." And withal delivereth to either of them a jewel, made in the figure of an ear of wheat which they ever after wear in the front of their turban, or hat. This done, they fall to music and dances, and other recreations after their manner for the rest of the day. This is the full order of that feast.

By that time six or seven days were spent, I was fallen into straight acquaintance with a merchant of that city, whose name was Joabin. He was a Jew, and circumcised, for they have some few stirps* of Jews yet remaining

* Stirps. See Note, p. 303
among them, whom they leave to their own religion: which they may the better do because they are of a far different disposition from the Jews in other parts: for whereas they hate the name of Christ, and have a secret inbred rancour against the people amongst whom they live, these, contrariwise, give unto our Saviour many high attributes, and love the nation of Bensalem extremely. Surely this man of whom I speak would ever acknowledge that Christ was born of a virgin, and that He was more than a man; and he would tell how God made him ruler of the seraphims which guard His throne; and they call him also the Milken Way, and the Elijah of the Messiah, and many other high names, which though they be inferior to His Divine Majesty, yet they are far from the language of other Jews. And for the country of Bensalem this man would make no end of commending it, being desirous by tradition among the Jews there to have it believed that the people thereof were of the generations of Abraham by another son, whom they called Nachoran; and that Moses by a secret cabala ordained the laws of Bensalem which they now use; and that when the Messiah should come and sit in His throne at Jerusalem, the king of Bensalem should sit at his feet, whereas other kings should keep a great distance. But yet, setting aside these Jewish dreams, the man was a wise man, and learned, and of great policy, and excellently seen in * the laws and customs of that nation. Amongst other discourses one day, I told him I was much affected with a relation I had from some of the company of their custom in holding the Feast of the Family, for that, methought I had never heard of a solemnity wherein Nature did so much preside. And I desired to know of him what laws and customs they had concerning marriage, and whether they kept marriage well, and whether they were tied to one wife; for that

* Seen in, skilled in. Imitation of the Latin use of "spectatus;" a common phrase in Old English.
where population is so much affected, and such as with them it seemed to be, there is commonly permission of plurality of wives. To this he said, "You have reason to commend that excellent institution of the Feast of the Family, and, indeed, we have experience that those families that are partakers of the blessing of that feast do flourish and prosper ever after in an extraordinary manner. But hear me now, and I will tell you what I know. You shall understand that there is not under the heavens so chaste a nation as this of Bensaalem, nor so free from all pollution or foulness. It is the virgin of the world. I remember I have read in one of your European books of a holy hermit amongst you that desired to see the spirit of fornication, and there appeared to him a little, foul, ugly Ethiop; but if he had desired to see the spirit of chastity of Bensaalem, it would have appeared to him in the likeness of a fair, beautiful cherubim; for there is nothing amongst mortal men more fair and admirable than the chaste minds of this people. Know, therefore, that with them there are no stews, no dissolute houses, no courtesans, nor anything of that kind. Nay, they wonder, with detestation, at you in Europe which permit such things. They say ye have put marriage out of office, for marriage is ordained a remedy for unlawful concupiscence; and natural concupiscence seemeth as a spur to marriage; but when men have at hand a remedy more agreeable to their corrupt will, marriage is almost expelled. And, therefore, there are with you seen infinite men that marry not, but choose rather a libertine and impure single life than to be yoked in marriage; and many that do marry, marry late, when the prime and strength of their years are past. And when they do marry, what is the marriage to them but a very bargain, wherein is sought alliance, or portion, or reputation, with some desire (almost indifferent) of issue, and not the faithful nuptial union of man and wife that was
first instituted. Neither is it possible that those that
have cast away so basely so much of their strength should
greatly esteem children (being of the same matter) as
chaste men do. So, likewise, during marriage, is the case
much amended, as it ought to be if those things were
tolerated only for necessity? No, but they remain still
as a very affront to marriage. The haunting of those
dissolute places, or resort to courtesans, are no more
punished in married men than in bachelors, and the
depraved custom of change, and the delight in mere-
tricious embraces (where sin is turned into art),
maketh marriage a dull thing, and a kind of imposi-
tion, or tax. They hear you defend these things as
done to avoid greater evils; but they say this is a pre-
posterous wisdom, and they call it Lot’s offer, who, to
save his guests, offered his daughters. Nay, they say
further that there is little gained in this, for that the same
vices and appetites do still remain and abound: unlawful
lust being like a furnace, that if you stop the flames
altogether, it will quench; but if you give it any vent,
it will rage. As for masculine love, they have no touch
of it: and yet there are not so faithful and inviolate
friendships in the world again as are there; and to speak
generally, as I said before, I have not read of any such
chastity in any people as theirs. And their usual saying is,
‘That whosoever is unchaste cannot reverence himself.’
And they say, ‘That the reverence of a man’s self is, next
religion, the chiefest bridle of all vices.’” And when he
had said this, the good Jew paused a little; whereupon I
far more willing to hear him speak on than to speak myself,
yet thinking it decent that upon his pause of speech I
should not be altogether silent, said only this, “That I
would say to him as the widow of Sarepta said to Elias:
that he was come to bring to memory our sins, and that
I confess the righteousness of Bensalem was greater than
the righteousness of Europe.” At which speech he
bowed his head, and went on in this manner: "They have also many wise and excellent laws touching marriage; they allow no polygamy; they have ordained that none do intermarry or contract until a month be past from the first interview. Marriage without consent of parents they do not make void; but they mulct in the inheritors, for the children of such marriages are not admitted to inherit above a third part of their parents' inheritance."

And as we were thus in conference there came one that seemed to be a messenger, in a rich huke,* that spake with the Jew, whereupon he turned to me, and said: "You will pardon me, for I am commanded away in haste." The next morning he came to me again, joyful as it seemed, and said: "There is word come to the governor of the city that one of the fathers of Salomon's House will be here this day seven-night. We have seen none of them these dozen years; his coming is in state; but the cause of his coming is secret. I will provide you and your fellows of a good standing to see his entry." I thanked him, and told him I was most glad of the news. The day being come, he made his entry. He was a man of middle stature and age, comely of person, and had an aspect as if he pitied men. He was clothed in a robe of fine black cloth, with wide sleeves and a cape; his under garment was of excellent white linen, down to the foot, girt with a girdle of the same, and a sindon,† or tippet, of the same about his neck. He had gloves that were curious and set with stone; and shoes of peach-coloured velvet; his neck was bare to the shoulders; his hat was like a helmet, or Spanish montera; ‡ and his locks curled

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* Huke, cloak. Old French "huque." Probably named from the piece of cotton cloth worn by the Arabs over the tunic, haik, from Ar. "haka," to weave. The word occurs in Old English as haik, hyke, huke.
† Sindon. See Note, page 299.
‡ Montera, a hunting-cap, from "montero," a huntsman, so called because his game is on the mountain, "monte."
below it decently (they were of colour brown); his beard was cut round, and of the same colour with his hair, but somewhat lighter. He was carried in a rich chariot without wheels, litterwise, with two horses at either end, richly trapped in blue velvet embroidered, and two footmen on each side in the like attire. The chariot was all of cedar, gilt, and adorned with crystal, save that the fore-end had panels of sapphires set in borders of gold, and the hinder end the like of emeralds of the Peru colour; there was also a sun of gold, radiant upon the top, in the midst, and on the top before, a small cherub of gold with wings displayed. The chariot was covered with cloth of gold tissued upon blue. He had before him fifty attendants, young men all, in white satin loose coats to the mid leg, and stockings of white silk, and shoes of blue velvet, and hats of blue velvet, with fine plumes of divers colours set round like hat-bands. Next before the chariot went two men, bare-headed, in linen garments down to the foot, girt, and shoes of blue velvet, who carried the one a crosier, the other a pastoral staff, like a sheep-hook, neither of them of metal, but the crosier of balm-wood, the pastoral staff of cedar. Horsemen he had none, neither before nor behind his chariot, as it seemeth, to avoid all tumult and trouble. Behind his chariot went all the officers and principals of the companies of the city. He sat alone upon cushions of a kind of excellent plush, blue; and under his foot curious carpets of silk of divers colours, like the Persian, but far finer. He held up his bare hand, as he went, as blessing the people, but in silence. The street was wonderfully well kept, so that there was never any army had their men stand in better battle array than the people stood. The windows likewise were not crowded, but every one stood in them as if they had been placed. When the show was passed the Jew said to me, "I shall not be able to attend you as I would, in regard
of some charge the city hath laid upon me for the entertaining of this great person." Three days later the Jew came to me again, and said "Ye are happy men, for the father of Salomon's House taketh knowledge of your being here, and commanded me to tell you that he will admit all your company to his presence, and have private conference with one of you that ye shall choose, and for this hath appointed the next day after to-morrow; and because he meaneth to give you his blessing he hath appointed it in the forenoon." We came at our day and hour, and I was chosen by my fellows for the private access. We found him in a fair chamber, richly hanged, and carpeted under foot, without any degrees to the state;* he was sat upon a low throne richly adorned, and a rich cloth of state over his head of blue satin embroidered. He was alone, save that he had two pages of honour on each hand, one finely attired in white; his under garments were the like that we saw him wear in the chariot, but instead of his gown he had on him a mantle with a cape, of the same fine black, fastened about him. When we came in, as we were taught, we bowed low at our first entrance; and when we were come near his chair he stood up, holding forth his hand ungloved, and in posture of blessing, and we, every one of us, stooped down and kissed the hem of his tippet; that done, the rest departed, and I remained. Then he warned the pages forth of the room, and caused me to sit down beside him, and spake to me thus in the Spanish tongue:—

"God bless thee, my son! I will give thee the greatest jewel I have, for I will impart unto thee, for the love of God and men, a relation of the true state of Salomon's House. Son, to make you know the true state of Salomon's House, I will keep this order: first, I will set forth unto you the end of our foundation. Secondly, the preparations and instruments we have for our works.

* Degrees to the state, steps up to the canopied seat.
Thirdly, the several employments and functions whereunto our fellows are assigned. And, fourthly, the ordinances and rites which we observe.

The end of our foundation is the knowledge of causes, and secret motions of things; and the enlarging of the bounds of human empire, to the effecting of all things possible.*

The preparations and instruments are these: we have large and deep caves of several depths; the deepest are sunk six hundred fathoms, and some of them are dug and made under great hills and mountains, so that if you reckon together the depth of the hill and the depth of the cave, they are (some of them) above three miles deep. For we find that the depth of a hill and the depth of a cave from the flat is the same thing; both remote alike from the sun and heaven's beams, and from the open air. Those caves we call the lower region, and we use them for all coagulations, inductions, refrigerations, and conservations of bodies. We use them likewise for the imitation of natural mines, and the producing also of new artificial metals by compositions and materials which we use, and lay there for many years. We use them also sometimes (which may seem strange) for curing of some diseases, and for prolongation of life, in some hermits that choose to live there, well accommodated of all things necessary, and indeed live very long; by whom also we learn many things.

We have burials in several earths, where we put divers cements, as the Chinese do their porcelain, but we have them in greater variety, and some of them more fine. We have also great variety of composts and soils for the making of the earth fruitful.

We have high towers, the highest about half a mile in height, and some of them likewise set upon high

* The end of our foundation was the avowed aim of the whole system of Bacon's philosophy.
mountains, so that the vantage of the hill with the
tower is, in the highest of them, three miles at least.
And these places we call the upper region; accounting
the air between the high places and the low as a middle
region. We use these towers, according to their several
heights and situations, for insolation,* refrigeration,
conservation, and for the view of divers meteors, as winds,
rain, snow, hail, and some of the fiery meteors also. And
upon them, in some places, are dwellings of hermits,
whom we visit sometimes, and instruct what to observe.

"We have great lakes, both salt and fresh, whereof
we have use for the fish and fowl. We use them also
for burials of some natural bodies; for we find a difference
in things buried in earth or in air below the earth, and
things buried in water. We have also pools, of which
some do strain fresh water out of salt, and others by art
do turn fresh water into salt. We have also some rocks
in the midst of the sea, and some bays upon the shore,
for some works wherein are required the air and vapour
of the sea. We have likewise violent streams and
cataracts, which serve us for many motions, and likewise
engines for multiplying and enforcing of winds, to set also
on going diverse motions.

"We have also a number of artificial wells and
fountains, made in imitation of the natural sources and
baths, as tinted upon vitriol, sulphur, steel, brass, lead,
nitre, and other minerals. And again, we have little wells
for infusions of many things, where the waters take the
virtue quicker and better than in vessels or basins. And
amongst them we have a water which we call water of
Paradise, being, by what we do to it, made very sovereign
for health and prolongation of life.

"We have also great and spacious houses where we
imitate and demonstrate meteors, as snow, hail, rain,
some artificial rains of bodies and not of water, thunders,

* Insolation, exposing to the rays of the sun.
lightnings; also generations of bodies in air, as frogs, flies, and divers others.

"We have also certain chambers, which we call chambers of health, where we qualify the air as we think good and proper, for the cure of divers diseases and preservation of health.

"We have also fair and large baths of several mixtures, for the cure of diseases and the restoring of man's body from arefaction;* and others for the confirming of it in strength of sinews, vital parts, and the very juice and substance of the body.

"We have also large and various orchards and gardens, wherein we do not so much respect beauty as variety of ground and soil proper for divers trees and herbs, and some very spacious, where trees and berries are set, whereof we make divers kinds of drinks, besides the vineyards. In these we practise likewise all conclusions † of grafting and inoculating, as well of wild trees as fruit trees, which produceth many effects. And we make (by art) in the same orchards and gardens, trees and flowers to come earlier or later than their seasons, and to come up and bear more speedily than by their natural course they do. We make them also, by art, greater much than their nature, and their fruit greater and sweeter, and of differing taste, smell, colour, and figure from their nature. And many of them we so order as they become of medicinal use.

"We have also means to make divers plants rise by mixtures of earth without seeds, and likewise to make divers new plants, differing from the vulgar; and to make one tree or plant turn into another.

"We have also parks and enclosures of all sorts of

* Aræfaction, being made dry; from Latin "arere," to be dry, and "facere," to make.
† Practise conclusions, equivalent to "try conclusions," make the experiment from which conclusions may be drawn.
beasts and birds, which we use not only for view or
rareness, but likewise for dissections and trials, that
thereby we may take light what may be wrought upon
the body of man. Wherein we find many strange effects,
as continuing life in them, though divers parts, which
you account vital, be perished and taken forth; resus-
citating of some that seem dead in appearance, and the
like. We try, also, all poisons, and other medicines
upon them as well of chirurgery as physic. By art, like-
wise, we make them greater or taller than their kind is,
and, contrariwise, dwarf them, and stay their growth;
we make them more fruitful and bearing than their kind
is, and, contrariwise, barren and not generative; also
we make them different in colour, shape, activity—many
ways. We find means to make commixtures of divers
kinds, which have produced many new kinds, and them
not barren, as the general opinion is. We make a number
of kinds of serpents, worms, flies, fishes, of putrefaction,
whereof some are advanced (in effect) to be perfect
creatures, like beasts or birds, and have sexes, and do
propagate. Neither do we this by chance, but we know
beforehand, of what matter and commixture, what kind
of those creatures will arise.

"We have also particular pools, where we make trials
upon fishes, as we have said before of beasts and birds.
"We have also places for breed and generation of
those kinds of worms and flies which are of special use,
such as are with you your silk-worms and bees.
"I will not hold you long with recounting of our
brewhouses, bakehouses, and kitchens, where are made
divers drinks, breads, and meats, rare, and of special
effects. Wines we have of grapes, and drinks of other
juice of fruits, of grains, and of roots; and of mixtures
with honey, sugar, manna, and fruits dried and decocted.
Also, of the tears and woundings of trees, and of the pulp
of canes. And these drinks are of several ages, some to the
age or last of forty years. We have drinks also brewed with several herbs, and roots, and spices; yea, with several fleshes and white meats, whereof some of the drinks are such as they are in age, to desire to live with them, with little or no meat or bread. And, above all, we strive to have drinks of extreme thin parts, to insinuate into the body, and yet without all biting, sharpness, or fretting; insomuch as some of them, put upon the back of your hand, will, with a little stay, pass through to the palm, and yet taste mild to the mouth. We have also waters which we ripen in that fashion, as they become nourishing, so that they are indeed excellent drink, and many will use no other. Breads we have of several grains, roots, and kernels: yea, and some of flesh and fish, dried with divers kinds of leavenings and seasonings, so that some do extremely move appetites. Some do nourish so as divers do live on them without any other meat, who live very long. So for meats, we have some of them so beaten and made tender, and mortified, yet without all corrupting, as a weak heat of the stomach will turn them into good chylus, as well as a strong heat would meat otherwise prepared. We have some meats also, and breads, and drinks, which, taken by men, enable them to fast long after; and some other, that used make the very flesh of men's bodies sensibly more hard and tough, and their strength far greater than otherwise it would be.

"We have dispensatories, or shops of medicines, wherein you may easily think, if we have such variety of plants and living creatures more than you have in Europe—for we know what you have—the simples, drugs, and ingredients of medicines must likewise be in so much the greater variety. We have them, likewise, of divers ages and long fermentations; and for their preparations we have not only all manner of exquisite distillations and separations, and especially by gentle heats, and percolations through divers strainers, yea, and
substances; but also exact forms of composition, whereby they incorporate almost as they were natural simples. "We have also divers mechanical arts which you have not, and stuffs made by them, as papers, linen, silks, tissues, dainty works of feathers of wonderful lustre, excellent dyes, and many others; and shops, likewise, as well for such as are not brought into vulgar use amongst us, as for those that are; for you must know that of the things before recited, many of them are grown into use throughout the kingdom; but yet if they did flow from our invention, we have of them also for patterns and principals.

"We have also furnaces of great diversities, and that keep great diversity of heats, fierce and quick, strong and constant, soft and mild, blown, quiet, dry, moist, and the like; but above all we have heats in imitation of the sun's and heavenly bodies' heats, that pass divers inequalities, and, as it were, orbs, progresses, and returns, whereby we produce admirable effects. Besides, we have heats of dungs, and of bellies and maws of living creatures, and of their bloods and bodies; and of hays and herbs laid up moist, of lime unquenched, and such like. Instruments, also, which generate heat only by motion. And further, places for strong insolations; and again, places under the earth, which, by nature of art, yield heat. These divers heats we use as the nature of the operation which we intend requireth.

"We have, also, perspective houses, where we make demonstrations of all lights and radiations, and of all colours; and out of things uncoloured and transparent we can represent unto you all several colours, not in rainbows—as it is in gems and prisms—but of themselves single. We represent, also, all multiplications of light, which we carry to great distance, and make so sharp as to discern small points and lines. Also all colourations of light; all delusions and deceits of the sight, in figures,
magnitudes, motions, colours; all demonstrations of shadows. We find, also, divers means yet unknown to you of producing of light originally from divers bodies. We procure means of seeing objects afar off, as in the heaven, and remote places; and represent things near as afar off, and things afar off as near, making feigned distances. We have also helps for the sight, far above spectacles and glasses in use; we have also glasses and means to see small and minute bodies perfectly and distinctly, as the shapes and colours of small flies and worms, grains and flaws in gems, which cannot otherwise be seen; observations in urine and blood not otherwise to be seen. We make artificial rainbows, halos, and circles about light; we represent also all manner of reflections, refractions, and multiplications of visual beams of objects.

"We have also precious stones of all kinds, many of them of great beauty, and to you unknown; crystals likewise, and glasses of divers kinds. And amongst them some of metals vitrificated, and other materials, besides those of which you make glass. Also a number of fossils and imperfect minerals, which you have not. Likewise loadstones of prodigious virtue, and other rare stones, both natural and artificial.

"We have also sound-houses, where we practise and demonstrate all sounds, and their generation. We have harmonies which you have not, of quarter-sounds and lesser slides of sounds. Divers instruments of music, likewise to you unknown, some sweeter than any you have, together with bells and rings that are dainty and sweet. We represent small sounds as great and deep, likewise great sounds extenuate and sharp; we make divers tremblings and warblings of sounds which in their original are entire. We represent and imitate all articulate sounds and letters, and the voices and notes of beasts and birds. We have certain helps, which, set to the ear, do further the hearing greatly. We have also divers
strange and artificial echoes, reflecting the voice many
times, and, as it were, tossing it; and some that give
back the voice louder than it came, some shriller, and some
deeper. Yea, some rendering the voice, differing in the
letters or articulate sound from that they receive. We
have also means to convey sounds in trunks and pipes, in
strange lines and distances.

"We have also perfume-houses, wherewith we join
also practices of taste. We multiply smells, which may
seem strange. We imitate smells, making all smells
to breathe out of other mixtures than those that give
them. We make divers imitations of taste likewise, so
that they will deceive any man's taste. And in this
house we contain also a confiture house, where we make
all sweetmeats, dry and moist; and divers pleasant
wines, milks, broths, and salads, far in greater variety
than you have.

"We have also engine-houses, where are prepared
engines and instruments for all sorts of motions: there
we imitate and practise to make swifter motions than
any you have, either out of your muskets or any engine
that you have; and to make them and multiply them
more easily, and with small force, by wheels and other
means; and to make them stronger and more violent
than yours are, exceeding your greatest cannons and
basilisks. We represent, also, ordnance and instruments
of war, and engines of all kinds; and likewise new mix-
tures and compositions of gunpowder, wildfires burning
in water, and unquenchable; also fireworks of all variety,
both for pleasure and use. We imitate, also, flights of
birds; we have some degrees of flying in the air; we
have ships and boats for going under water and brooking
of seas; also swimming-girdles and supporters. We have
divers curious clocks, and other like motions of return,
and some perpetual motions. We imitate also motions
of living creatures, by images of men, beasts, birds,
fishes, and serpents. We have also a great number of other various motions, strange for equality, fineness, and subtlety.

"We have also a mathematical house, where are represented all instruments, as well of geometry as astronomy, exquisitely made.

"We have also houses of deceits of the senses, where we represent all manner of feats of juggling, false apparitions, impostures, and illusions, and their fallacies. And surely you will easily believe that we that have so many things truly natural which induce admiration, could, in a world of particulars, deceive the senses, if we would disguise those things, and labour to make them seem more miraculous. But we do hate all impostures and lies; insomuch as we have severely forbidden it to all our fellows, under pain of ignominy and fines, that they do not show any natural work or thing adorned or swelling, but only pure as it is, and without all affectation of strangeness.

"These are, my son, the riches of Salomon's House.

"For the several employments and offices of our fellows: We have twelve that sail into foreign countries under the names of other nations (for our own we conceal), who bring us the books, and abstracts, and patterns of experiments of all other parts. These we call Merchants of Light.

"We have three that collect the experiments which are in all books. These we call Depredators.

"We have three that collect the experiments of all mechanical arts, and also of liberal sciences, and also of practices which are not brought into arts. These we call Mystery men.

"We have three that try new experiments such as themselves think good. These we call Pioneers or Miners.

"We have three that draw the experiments of the
former four into titles and tables, to give the better light for the drawing of observations and axioms out of them. These we call Compilers.

"We have three that bend themselves, looking into the experiments of their fellows, and casting about how to draw out of them things of use and practice for man's life and knowledge, as well for works as for plain demonstration of causes, means of natural divinations, and the easy and clear discovery of the virtues and parts of bodies. These we call Dowry-men, or Benefactors.

"Then after divers meetings and consultations of our whole number, to consider of the former labours and collections, we have three that take care out of them to direct new experiments of a higher light, more penetrating into nature than the former. These we call Lamps.

"We have three others that do execute the experiments so directed, and report them. These we call Inoculators.

"Lastly, we have three that raise the former discoveries, by experiments, into greater observations, axioms, and aphorisms. These we call Interpreters of Nature.

"We have also, as you must think, novices and apprentices, that the succession of the former employed men do not fail, besides a great number of servants and attendants—men and women. And this we do also: we have consultations which of the inventions and experiences which we have discovered shall be published, and which not; and take all an oath of secrecy for concealing of those which we think fit to keep secret, though some of those we do reveal sometimes to the State, and some not.

"For our ordinances and rites, we have two very long and fair galleries: in one of these we place patterns and samples of all manner of the more rare and excellent
inventions; in the other we place the statues of the principal inventors. There we have the statue of your Columbus, that discovered the West Indies; also the inventor of ships; your Monk, that was the inventor of ordnance and of gunpowder; the inventor of music; the inventor of letters; the inventor of printing; the inventor of observations of astronomy; the inventor of works in metal; the inventor of glass; the inventor of silk of the worm; the inventor of wine; the inventor of corn and bread; the inventor of sugars; and all these by more certain tradition than you have. Then have we divers inventors of our own of excellent works, which, since you have not seen, it were too long to make descriptions of them; and besides, in the right understanding of those descriptions, you might easily err; for upon every invention of value we erect a statue to the inventor, and give him a liberal and honourable reward. These statues are, some of brass, some of marble and touchstone,* some of cedar and other special woods, gilt and adorned, some of iron, some of silver, and some of gold.

"We have certain hymns and services, which we say daily, of laud and thanks to God for His marvellous works, and forms of prayers imploring His aid and blessing for the illumination of our labours, and the turning of them into good and holy uses.

"Lastly, we have circuits, or visits, of divers principal cities of the kingdom, where, as it cometh to pass, we do publish such new profitable inventions as we think good. And we do also declare natural divinations of diseases, plagues, swarms of hurtful creatures, scarcity, tempests, earthquakes, great inundations, comets,

* Touchstone, Lydian stone, or basanite, is silicious schist, almost as compact as flint, called touchstone because it was used to indicate the purity of gold by the streak left where the gold had been drawn across it.
temperature of the year, and divers other things; and we give counsel thereupon what the people shall do for the prevention and remedy of them."

And when he had said this, he stood up. And I, as I had been taught, kneeled down, and he laid his right hand upon my head, and said:—"God bless thee, my son; and God bless this relation which I have made. I give thee leave to publish it, for the good of other nations; for we here are in God's bosom, a land unknown." And so he left me, having assigned a value of about two thousand ducats for a bounty to me and my fellows. For they give great largesses when they come, upon all occasions.

(The rest was not perfected.)

THE END

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