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Titel: The Surprising Travels & Adventures, Of Baron Munchausen, Also An Account Of A Vo...

Autor: Raspe, Rudolf Erich

Verlag: Fordyce

Ort: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jahr: 1840

Kollektion: Bucherhaltung; Itineraria

Werk Id: PPN80693235X

PURL: http://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?PID=PPN80693235X|LOG_0020

OPAC: <http://opac.sub.uni-goettingen.de/DB=1/PPN?PPN=80693235X>

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an immense quantity of bear-skins and hams, after which it would have been madness to have attempted to proceed farther, as we were now scarcely able to bat a brisk gale, much less those mountains of ice which lay in the higher latitudes.

The captain has since often expressed a dissatisfaction that he had no share in the honours of that day, which he emphatically called the *bear-skin day*. He has also been very desirous of knowing by what art I destroyed so many thousands, without fatigue or danger to myself: indeed, he is so ambitious of dividing the glory with me, that we have actually quarrelled about it, and we are not now upon speaking terms. He boldly asserts I had no merit in deceiving the bears, because I was covered with one of their skins; nay, he declares there is not, in his opinion, in Europe, so complete a bear naturally, as himself, among the human species.

He is now a noble peer, and I am too well acquainted with good manners to dispute so delicate a point with his lordship.

CHAPTER XIV.

Our Baron excels Baron Tott beyond all comparison; yet fails in part of his attempt—Gets

into disgrace with the Grand Seignior, who orders his head to be cut off—Escapes and gets on board a vessel in which he is carried to Venice—Baron Tott's origin, with some account of that great man's parents—Pope Ganganelli's amour—His holiness fond of shell-fish.

BARON DE TOTT, in his Memoirs, makes as great a parade of a single act, as many travellers whose whole lives have been spent in seeing the different parts of the globe: for my part, if I had been blown from Europe to Asia, from the mouth of a cannon, I should have boasted less of it afterward than he has done of only firing off a Turkish piece of ordnance. What he says of this wonderful gun, as near as my memory will serve me, is this: the Turks had placed below the castle, and near the city on the banks of *Simois*, a celebrated river, an enormous piece of ordnance, cast in brass which would carry a marble ball of *eleven hundred pounds' weight*. I was inclined, says Tott, 'to fire it, but I was willing first to judge of its effect: the crowd about me trembled at this proposal, as they asserted it would overthrow not only the castle, but the city also: at length their fears in part subsided, and I was permitted to discharge it. It required not less than *three hundred and thirty pounds weight of powder*; and the ball weighed as before-men-

tioned *eleven hundred weight*. When the engineer brought the priming, the crowds who were about me retreated back as fast as they could; nay, it was with the utmost difficulty I persuaded the *Pacha*, who came on purpose, there was no danger: even the engineer, who was to discharge it by my direction, was considerably alarmed. I took my stand on some stone work behind the cannon, gave the signal, and felt the shock like that of an earthquake! at the distance of three hundred fathoms, the ball burst into three peices; the fragments crossed the Strait, rebounded on the opposite mountain, and left the surface of the water all in a foam, through the whole breadth of the channel.

This, gentlemen, is as near as I can recollect, Baron de Tott's account of the largest cannon in the known world. Now, when I was there not long since, the anecdote of Tott's firing this tremendous peice was mentioned as a proof of that gentleman's extraordinary courage.

I was determined not to be outdone by a Frenchman; therefore took this very piece upon my shoulder, and after balancing it properly, jumped into the sea with it, and swam to the opposite shore, from whence I unfortunately attempted to throw it back into its former place. I say un-

fortunately, for it slipped a little in my hand, just as I was going to discharge it, and in consequence of that, it fell into the middle of the channel, where it now lies without a prospect of ever recovering it: and notwithstanding the high favour I was in with the grand Seignior, as before mentioned, this cruel Turk, as soon as he heard of the loss of his famous peice of ordnance, issued an order to cut off my head. I was immediately informed of it by one of the Sultanas, with whom I was become a great favourite, and she secreted me in her apartment while the officer charged with my execution, was with his assistants, in search of me.

That very night, I made my escape on board a vessel bound to Venice, which was then weighing anchor to proceed on her voyage.

The last story, gentlemen, I am not fond of mentioning, as I miscarried in the attempt, and was very near losing my life into the bargain: however, as it contains no impeachment of my honour, I would not withhold it from you.

Now, gentlemen, you all know me, and can have doubt of my veracity. I will entertain you with the origin of this same swaggering bouncing Torr.

His reputed father was a native of Berne,

in Switzerland ; his profession was that of a surveyor of the streets, lanes, and alleys, vulgarly called a scavenger. His mother was a native of the mountains of Savoy, and had a most beautiful large wen on her neck, common to both sexes in that part of the world ; she left her parents when young, and sought her fortune in the same city which gave his father birth : she maintained herself while single by acts of kindness to her sex, for she was never known to refuse them any favour they asked, provided they did but pay her some compliment before-hand. This lovely couple met by accident in the street, in consequence of their being both intoxicated ; for, by reeling to one centre, they threw each other down : this created mutual abuse, in which they were complete adepts ; they were both carried to the watchhouse, and afterwards to the house of correction ; they soon saw the folly of quarrelling, made it up, became fond of each other, and married : but madam returning to her old tricks, his father, who had high notions of honour, soon separated himself from her ; she then joined a family who strolled about with a puppet show. In time she arrived at Rome, where she kept an oyster stand. You have all heard, no doubt, of POPE GANGANELLI,

commonly called Clement XIV. ; he was remarkably fond of oysters. One Good-Friday, as he was passing through this famous city in state, to assist at high mass at St. Peter's church, he saw this woman's oysters (which were remarkably fine and fresh); he could not proceed without tasting them: there were about five thousand people in his train; he ordered them all to stop, and sent word to the church he could not attend mass till next day; then alighting from his horse (for the pope always rides on horseback upon these occasions) he went into her stall, and ate every oyster she had there, and afterward retired into the cellar, where she had a few more. This subterraneous apartment was her kitchen, parlour, and bed-chamber. He liked his situation so much, that he discharged all his attendants, and to make short of the story, his holiness passed the whole night with her! before they parted, he gave her absolution, not only for every sin she had, but all she might hereafter commit.

Now gentlemen I have his mother's word for it (and her honour cannot be doubted), that Baron Tott is the fruit of that amour. When Tott was born, his mother applied to His Holiness, as the father of her child: he immediately placed

him under proper people ; and as he grew up, gave him a gentleman's education, had him taught the use of arms, procured him promotion in France, and a title, and when he died he left him a good estate.

CHAPTER XV.

A further account of the journey from Harwich to Helvoetsluys—Description of a number of marine objects, never mentioned by any traveller before—Rocks seen in this passage equal to the Alps in magnitude ; Lobsters, Crabs, &c. of an extraordinary magnitude—A woman's life saved—The cause of her falling into the sea—Dr. Hawes's directions followed with success.

I OMITTED several very material parts in my father's journey across the channel to Holland, which that they may not be totally lost I will now faithfully give you in his own words, as I heard him relate them to his friends several times.

“ On my arrival,” says my father, “ at Helvoetsluys, I was observed to breathe with some difficulty : upon the inhabitants inquiring into the cause, I informed them, that the animal upon whose back I rode from Harwich across to their shore, did not swim ? Such is their peculiar form and disposition, that they cannot float or move upon the surface of the water : he ran with incredible swiftness upon the sands, from shore to shore, driving fish in