

Werk

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_0029

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

Terms and Conditions

The Goettingen State and University Library provides access to digitized documents strictly for noncommercial educational, research and private purposes and makes no warranty with regard to their use for other purposes. Some of our collections are protected by copyright. Publication and/or broadcast in any form (including electronic) requires prior written permission from the Goettingen State- and University Library.

Each copy of any part of this document must contain these Terms and Conditions. With the usage of the library's online system to access or download a digitized document you accept the Terms and Conditions.

Reproductions of material on the web site may not be made for or donated to other repositories, nor may be further reproduced without written permission from the Goettingen State- and University Library.

For reproduction requests and permissions, please contact us. If citing materials, please give proper attribution of the source.

Contact

Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen
Germany
Email: gdz@sub.uni-goettingen.de

off, happy to find that I was once more restored to the world. The eagle flew away in a few minutes, and I sat down to compose my fluttering spirits, which I did in a few hours.

I soon paid a visit to my friends, and related these adventures. Amazement stood in every countenance; their congratulations on my returning in safety were repeated with an unaffected degree of pleasure, and we passed the evening as we are doing now, every person present paying the highest compliments to my COURAGE and VERACITY.

INTRODUCTION.

TO THE SECOND PART.

BARON MUNCHAUSEN has certainly been productive of much benefit to the literary world: the numbers of egregious travellers have been such, that they demanded a very Gulliver to surpass them. If Baron de Tott dauntlessly discharged an enormous piece of artillery, the Baron Munchausen has done more; he has taken it and swam with it across the sea. When travellers are solicitous to be the heroes of their own story, surely they must submit

to superiority, and blush at seeing themselves outdone by the renowned Munchausen : I doubt whether any one hitherto, Pantagruel, Gargantua, Captain Lemuel, or de Tott, has been able to outdo our Baron in this species of excellence : and as at present our curiosity seems much directed to the interior of Africa, it must be edifying to have the real relation of Munchausen's adventures there before any farther intelligence arrives ; for he seems to adapt himself and his exploits to the spirit of the times, and recounts what he thinks should be most interesting to his auditors.

I do not mean to say that the Baron, in the following stories, means a satire on any political matters whatever. No ; but if the reader understands them so I cannot help it.

If the Baron meets with a parcel of negro ships carrying whites into slavery to work upon their plantations in a cold climate, should we therefore imagine that he intends a reflection in the traffic of human flesh ? and that if the negroes should do so, it would be simple justice, as retaliation is the law of God ! If we were to think this a reflection on any present commercial or political matter, we should be tempted to imagine, perhaps, some politi-

cal ideas conveyed in every page, in every sentence of the whole. Whether such things are or are not the intentions of the Baron, the reader must judge.

We have had not only wonderful travellers in this vile world, but splenetic travellers, and of these not a few, and also conspicuous enough. It is a pity, therefore, that the Baron has not endeavoured to surpass them in this species of story-telling. Who is it that can read the travels of Smellfungus, as Sterne calls him, without admiration? To think that a person from the north of Scotland, should travel through some of the finest countries in Europe, and find fault with every thing he meets—nothing to please him! And therefore methinks the tour to the Hebrides is more excusable; and also perhaps Mr. Twiss's Tour in Ireland. Doctor Johnson, bred in the luxuriance of London, with more reason should become cross and splenetic in the bleak and dreary regions of the Hebrides.

The Baron, in the following work, seems to be sometimes philosophical: his account of the language of the interior of Africa, and its analogy with that of the inhabitants of the moon, show him to be profoundly versed in the etymological antiquities of nations, and throw new light

upon the abstruse history of the ancient Scythians, and the Collectanea.

His endeavour to abolish the custom of eating live flesh in the interior of Africa, as described in Bruce's Travels, is truly humane. But far be it from me to suppose, that by Gog and Magog, and the Lord Mayor's Show, he means a satire upon any person, or body of persons whatever: or, by a tedious litigated trial of blind judges and dumb matrons following a wild goose chase all round the world, he should glance at any trial whatever.

Nevertheless, I must allow that it was extremely presumptuous in Munchausen to tell half the sovereigns of the world that they were wrong, and advise them what they ought to do; and that instead of ordering millions of their subjects to massacre one another, it would be more to their interest to employ their forces in concert for the general good: as if he knew better than the Empress of Russia, the Grand Vizir, Prince Potemkin, or any other butcher in the world. But that he should be a royal Aristocrat, and take the part of the injured Queen of France in the present political drama, I am not at all surprised; and I suppose his mind was fired by reading the pamphlet written by Mr. Burke.