

#

A FULL and TRUE

RELATION

OF THE

Great and Wonderful REVOLUTION

That hapned lately in the KINGDOM of

SIAM

In the East-Indies.

Giving a particylar Account of the

Seizing and Death of the Late King, and
of the Setting up of a New One.

AS ALSO

Of the putting to Death of the King's only Daughter,
His Adopted Son who was a Christian, his two Brothers;
And of Monsieur *Constance*, his great Minister of State, and
Favourer of the *FRENCH*.

AND

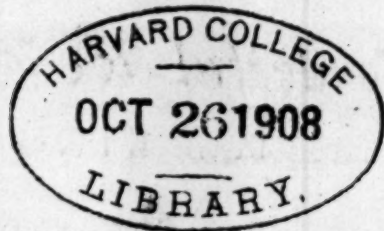
Of the Expulsion of all the Jesuits, Missionary Priests, Officers
and Soldiers of the *FRENCH* Nation out of that Kingdom, that
endeavoured to bring it under the *FRENCH* Domination.

*Being the Substance of several Letters writ in Octob. 1688. and Febr. 1689.
From SIAM, and the Coast of Cormandel. Never before publisht in any
Language, and now Translated into English.*

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Strobel gift

The Preface to the Reader.

FOR the better understanding of the following Relation, I Think it not amiss to acquaint the Reader, That the first Solemn Embassy that the French King sent to the late King of SIAM, was in the Year 1685, by Monsieur de Chaumont, who went in Quality of Ambassador Extraordinary, whereof there are two Relations publisht; One, of the Embassy done by the Ambassador himself; The other, of the Voyage done by Father Tachard, one of the six Jesuits that accompany'd Monsieur de Chaumont in that Voyage, by the French King's particular Command. Both are Translated into English, Illustrated with Sculptures, and Printed about two Years ago.

The second Embassy was performed in the Year 1687, when the SIAM Ambassadors that came into France the Year before with Monsieur de Chaumont, return'd back again into SIAM, by Messieurs de la Louberc and Ceberet, who carry'd over with them twelve French Jesuits, all Mathematicians, to teach the Christian Religion, and the Mathematical Sciences in the two Royal Cities of SIAM and LOUVO, and a considerable Body of Officers and Soldiers that the French King sent to the King of SIAM. The Relation of this second Voyage is publisht only in French about six Months ago, by the same Father Tachard, who went back into SIAM with the SIAM Ambassadors, and return'd from Thence into France with the Character of the King of SIAM's Envoy Extraordinary to the French King, and to the Pope. He arrived at Paris in November, 1688. and had an Audience of the French King: And in January, 1689. he came to Rome, and had his Au-

dience of the Pope. In March following he was to have Embarked the third time for SIAM; but what is become of him since, is not yet known.

In all these three Relations there is mention made of a young Princess, Daughter to the late King of SIAM, that was then alive, whereof there is no Notice taken in the following Account of the late Revolution; but in other Letters that are come into France from other hands, we find a no less Tragical Account of her Death, than that of her Unkles, and adopted Brother, the manner whereof they say was this: Opra Pitrachard having dispatched the King's two Brothers, and adopted Son, who were the only Princes that stood in his way to the Crown, caused the young Princess, the King's only Daughter, to be taken and thrust into a large velvet Sack, and her Brains to be knockt out with great Bars of the sweet and so much esteem'd Wood in all the Indies call'd Aquila and Calamboar; and then thrown into the River, it being accounted a prophane thing, and a violation of the Sacred Respect due to a Princess of the Royal Blood of SIAM, to be put to Death in the usual manner that others are; and therefore they did it with great Deference and distinguishing Ceremonies becoming her Quality, not suffering her Royal Person to be polluted with the touch of any vulgar Hand, or Instrument of Mortality.

The King of SIAM that died lately was about 59 years of Age; the Character that is given of him in all the printed Relations of the French is very advantageous: They say he was, without Contradiction, the greatest Prince that ever Reign'd in SIAM. He was of stature somewhat under the middle size, but strait and well shap'd. He had an engaging Air, a sweet and obliging Carriage, especially to Strangers. He was active and brisk, an Enemy of Idleness and Laziness, which seems to be so natural to the Eastern Princes, and is accounted by them as the Noblest Prerogative of their Crown. This Prince, on the

contrary, was always either in the Woods a hunting of Elephants, or in his Palace minding the Affairs of his Kingdom. He was no Lover of War, because it ruin'd his People, whom he tenderly lov'd; but when his Subjects rebell'd, or his neighbouring Princes offer'd him the least Affront, or violated that Respect that was due to him, there was no King in all the East that took a more conspicuous Revenge, nor appeared more passionate for Glory. He was desirous of knowing every thing, and having a pregnant and piercing Wit, he easily became Master of what he had a mind to learn. He was magnificent, generous, and as true a Friend as could be desired. These were the Illustrious Qualities which acquired him the Respect of his Neighbours, the Fear of his Enemies, the Esteem and Love of his Subjects, that was nothing short of Adoration. He was never addicted to those Vices which so commonly reign amongst the Princes of the East; nay, he did often severely punish the most considerable Mandarins, and principal Officers of the Crown, for being too much given to their Pleasures: So that the most unconquerable Obstacle to the Conversion of those Indian and Idolatrous Princes, was not to be found in him, namely, the immoderate Love of Women.

By the sharpness of his Wit he had discovered the Erroneousness of the Religion of his Ancestors. And he did not believe an Annihilated God, according to the popular Opinion; or as some of their Doctors say, A God, who weary of governing the Heavens, plunges himself in Repose, and for ever buries himself in the forgetfulness of what passes in the world; Nor a Thousand other Superstitions preached by the Talopins, who are the Preachers and Priests of the Kingdom. On the contrary, He believ'd that God is Eternal; that his Providence continually governs the World, and disposes of all things. To the same Immortal God he often made his Prayers, and implored his Divine Assistance with most profound Reverence at least
twice

twice a day, for two hours time, in the Morning after he was up, and at Night before he went to rest. Of the truth of this, there is a most Illustrious Monument in that Never-enough to be admired Speech of his to Monsieur Constance, in Answer to the French Ambassador's Memorial, when he press'd him much to declare himself a Christian; which, because of its singular worth, I think it not amiss to insert it here, as Father Tachard has deliver'd it to us in the 5th Book of his first Voyage to SIAM, pag. 309. of the Paris Edition, in Quarto, which runs thus in English:

IN Answer to the French Ambassador, you shall tell him from me, That I think my Self extremely obliged to the King of France his Master, finding in his Memorial the marks of his most Christian Majesties Royal Friendship; And since the Honour that great Prince hath done me, is already made Publick all over the East, I cannot sufficiently acknowledge his Civility: But that I am extremely troubled that the King of France, my good Friend, should propose so difficult a thing unto me, wherewith I am not in the least acquainted; that I refer my Self to the Wisdom of the most Christian King, that he himself may judge of the Importance and Difficulty that occur in so nice a matter, as the Change of a Religion receiv'd and follow'd throughout my whole Kingdom, without Interruption, during the space of Two thousand two hundred and twenty nine years.

Besides, it is a matter of Astonishment to me, that the King of France, my good Friend, should so much concern himself in an Affair that relates to God, wherein it would seem God do's not at all interest himself, but leaves it wholly to our discretion; For could not the true God, that created the Heavens and the Earth, and all things that are there-

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therein, and hath given them so different Natures and Inclinations, when he gave to Men like Bodies and Souls, if he had pleased, have also inspired into them the same Sentiments for that Religion they ought to follow, and for that Worship which was most acceptable to him, and make all Nations live and die in the same Laws?

That Order amongst Men, and that Unity in Religion depending absolutely on Divine Providence, who could as easily introduce it into the World, as the diversity of Sects that in all times have been established in it; Ought not one to think, that the true God takes as great pleasure to be honoured by different Worships and Ceremonies, as to be glorify'd by a prodigious number of Creatures, that praise him every one in their own way? Would that Beauty and Variety which we admire in the Order of Nature, be less admirable in the supernatural Order, or less befitting the Wisdom of God?

However it be, *continued he*, since we know that God is the absolute Master of the World, and that we are persuaded that nothing comes to pass contrary to his Will, I wholly resign my Person and Dominions into the Arms of the Divine Mercy and Providence, and with all my Heart beseech his Eternal Wisdom to dispose thereof according to his good Will and Pleasure.

But after all this Character and Account of his Person and Humour, I cannot learn what his Name was, unless by the Inscription of the Letters he sent to the Pope, and to the French King in the Year 1688, mentioned in the second Voyage of Father Tachard: In his Letter to the French King he writes himself thus:

SOM DET PRATCHAO CRUNG THEP
PRAMHA ANA CON PUJAI

To the Pope thus :

SOM DET PRATCHAO SIA JOV THIA PUJAI.

He never signs his Name in any Letters he writes; the Metal on which his Letters are writ, and which none else in his Kingdom is allow'd to use but himself, is accounted an authentick and unquestionable Proof that the Letters are the Kings. He writes on a Plate of Gold only when he sends Letters to great Kings; and when he writes to inferior and private Persons, it is commonly on Paper, to which his Seal is annex'd, which is of different bigness, according to the quality of the Person to whom he writes.

And as for Monsieur Constance, besides what is said of him in the following Discourse, I will add some few things taken of other Authors, that are entertaining enough, and deserve to be inserted here.

Whilst he was in England, and a good while after he had been settled in SIAM, he was a good Protestant, but when he fell into the Jesuits hands, they soon perverted him, and made him embrace the Roman Catholick Religion, and espouse the French Interest, to that degree of Zeal that proved so Fatal to him at last. He lived some Years in the Family and Service of one Mr. White, a considerable East-India Merchant at SIAM, who is now in London, and continued his Factor when he left SIAM; by which means he gather'd some mony, and then set up for himself: The first step he made, was to buy a Ship, and to put to Sea, but had the misfortune to be beat back by bad Weather, and was twice cast away in the Mouth of the River of SIAM.

Putting to Sea once more, he was shipwrackt the third time, and much more unfortunately, upon the Coast of Malabar; there

there he was in danger of perishing, and could not save, of all he had, above Two thousand Crowns. In this sad Condition, being oppress'd with grief, weariness and sleep, a remarkable thing hapned to him: He had laid himself down upon the shore, when, whether he was asleep, or awake, he could not tell himself, he fancied he saw a person full of Majesty, who looking upon him with a smiling Countenance, most obligingly said to him, Return, Return, from whence you came. Which words so wrought upon him, as he did often protest to several of his Acquaintance since, That it was impossible for him to sleep all the rest of the Night, his Thoughts being wholly taken up about finding a way how to return to SIAM.

Next Day, whil'st he walked by the Sea-side, reflecting on what he had seen in the Night-time, and uncertain what to think of it, he saw a Man coming towards him dropping wet, with a sad and dejected Countenance: It was an Ambassador of the King of SIAM, who, upon his Return from Persia, had been Cast away, without saving any thing but his Life; both of them speaking the Siamese Tongue, they became soon acquainted with one anothers Adventures. The Ambassador discover'd himself, and told what extreme Necessity he was reduced to. Monsieur Constance condoling his Misfortune, offered to carry him back to SIAM, and with the 2000 Crowns that he had saved, he bought a small Barque, Cloaths and Provision for their passage. This so obliging a Behaviour charmed the Ambassador of SIAM, who, from that time forward, endeavour'd all he could how he might testifie his Gratitude to him. When they arrived at SIAM, and the Ambassador had given an Account of his Negotiation and Shipwrack to the chief Minister, he told him all the good Offices which he had receiv'd from Monsieur Constance, with so great Applause to his Merit, that the Minister had a mind to know him. He entertain'd him in Discourse, and liked him so well, that he resolv'd to keep him about him, in which Post
he

he soon gain'd the Esteem and Confidence of his Master. This chief Minister was a Man of Wit, and well vers'd in Business; but he avoided Trouble as much as he could, and loved his pleasure. It was matter of exceeding Joy to him, to have found an able, faithful, and industrious Person, on whom he might repose the Cares of his place. The Barcalon dying not long after, the King, would needs put Monsieur Constance in his place, but he declin'd it, and told his Majesty, That that Post would create to him the Envy of all the great Men, and therefore besought him not to raise him higher than he was, for that was the utmost Boundary of his Ambition, accounting himself happy enough, in that he stood fair in his Favours.

His Modesty, his Skill and Diligence in dispatching Affairs; his Fidelity in managing the publick Revenue, and his Disinterestedness in refusing both the Appointments of his Office, and all Presents from private People, did more and more increase the King's Confidence in him.

He was very Civil to the English on all Occasions, and did them all the friendly Offices that lay in his power. He was very desirous of settling a Trade betwixt that Nation and them, but it was obstructed.

About two Years ago he sent a very considerable Present to King James II. of all the Rarities and valuable Things that the East-Indies do produce, estimated to be worth about Six thousand pounds.

Now that I am talking of Presents, nothing could be more Magnificent, than those that the King of SIAM sent to the French King in the Year 1685, valued at above Sixty thousand pounds: And, in Requital, the French King sent to the King of SIAM of the Manufacture of France, in Rich Brocads, Looking-Glasses, Watches, Cloaks, and other valuable Things, to the value of above 300000 Crowns; yet nothing was lookt on as a greater Compliment to the King of SIAM, than a very fine Caparason of Velvet all richly Embroydered with Silver, Gold, and Pearls, all the Buckles and Rings whereof were of Massy Gold that was sent for the White Elephant, the Palladium, or Tutelar Deity of that Country.

A
RELATION
OF THE
Late Great Revolution
IN
SIAM,
And of the Driving out of the
FRENCH.

BY the various Relations, Embassies and Voyages of *Siam* that have been publisht within these last Four Years, the World has been sufficiently informed of the Intrigues of the *Jesuits* in that Kingdom, which was begun and managed by the means of a certain Greek Christian call'd *Constantin Faulcon*, whom the *French* have qualified with the Title and Dignity of *his Excellency my Lord*
B *Constance.*

Constance. He was born in *Cephalonia*, a Greek Island belonging to the *Venetians*, of a Noble *Venetian*, and of a young Lady of the ancientest Family of the Country; and about the Year 1660, being but Ten Years of Age, he had Sense and Understanding enough to discern the ill Condition that his Parents Negligence and ill Management had brought their Domestick Affairs into, which put him upon the Resolution of seeking his Fortune abroad, since he could not maintain it according to his Quality at home. The first Adventure he made was into *England*, where he lived some Years, and then went into the *East-Indies*, and was employ'd by some *English* Merchants as their Factor at *Siam*. He continued some time in that Service, and had the good Fortune to be known to the chief Minister of State, who in that Country is call'd *Barcalon*, who finding him to be diligent, laborious, and capable of doing Business, brought him into the management of publick Affairs under him; by which means he came to be not only acceptable, but very necessary to the King in the dispatch of several important Matters. The Advantage of his *European* Education, and the great Knowledge he had acquired in Trade and Commerce both there and in the *Indies*, making him very considerable, help'd to insinuate him so far into the Favour and good Opinion of the King of *Siam*, that at last, after the death of the *Barcalon*, he was advanced to be one of his chief Ministers, especially for the management of Foreign Affairs.

The Intrigue was carry'd on at Court, under the plausible Pretext of freeing the Golph of *Siam* from the *Dutch* Yoke, who having *Malacca*, a strong Fort at the Entry of it, in their hands, had imposed a Toll and Duty on all the *Indian* Ships that traded or came into that Bay; but the true Design that (as was believed) lay at the bottom, was

was first to bring the Kingdom under the *French* Domination, and then to change the establish'd Religion of the Country; towards the attainment of which Ends, the said *Greek* had so far prevail'd on the King, who having no Sons of his own to succeed him, but two Brothers, as to get him to adopt a young Nobleman that had been bred up in that Christian Religion that the *Jesuits* teach and propagate in the *Indies*, to be his Heir and Successor. It was under this Successor that the Conspiracy was to take Effect.

The *French* were already become Masters, and in possession of the two chief places that open a passage into that Kingdom; the one is call'd *Bancock*, which is a great and strong Fortrefs on the Mouth of the River of *Siam*; *Margen* is the other place situated on the Frontiers: And as if this had not been enough to please and oblige them, the King allow'd them to have a Command in the Guards about his own Person.

It was with much Impatience and Resentment that the Officers of State, and the great Men of the Kingdom suffer'd those pernicious Intrigues to be carry'd on. They could not but well observe, that those great *French* Squadrons, so fill'd with Numbers of Men, and so plentifully provided with Ammunition, and all Warlike Preparations, aimed at something else, besides the securing of the Trade and Commerce of the *French* Company of Merchants, all whose Stock was not of that Importance, as to occasion the Charges and necessary Expence of one of those Squadrons; neither were they so silly, or unacquainted with the Affairs abroad, as to believe that those mighty and rich Presents that came so frequently from *France*, were sent for no other End, than to make and preserve a strict Friendship and Amity betwixt the Kings of both Nations. They could

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not, without some Indignation, bear the specious Discourses of the *Jesuits*, who would persuade those Oriental People, that all the Pains they took, the Fatigues and Dangers they had endur'd in coming so far to live amongst them, proceeded from no other Principle, but the strong desire they had of doing them good, which was pretended to be the Motive that induced them to come and exercise amongst them those Arts and Sciences that are best understood and practised in *Europe*, such as Physick, Surgery, Astronomy, and the Mathematicks, by the means whereof they hoped to render them capable of being taught the way to Heaven.

On the contrary, they saw that those Missioners had fallen upon the same treacherous and intriguing Methods to overturn their Government, that they had formerly practised in *Japan*, where they made it more their Business to subject that Kingdom to the *Spanish* Domination, (which was then the most potent, and furthest extended in the World) than to bring it under the Obedience of Jesus Christ his Laws. Notwithstanding that the Doctrine of the Gospel had made so great a progress in that vast Empire, that some Princes of the Blood, several of the chief Nobility, and some hundreds of thousands of the People had declared for the Christian Religion, and enroll'd themselves amongst the Professors of it.

These were the Reflections that the Grandees of *Siam* entertain'd themselves with on this Occasion, but they were willing to stay till the death of the King, before they attempted the shaking off this Foreign Yoke.

In

In the Month of May 1688, the King happened to fall Sick at his Royal Palace at *Louvo*, the report whereof was no sooner spread abroad, than the Conspiracy broke out, which was contrived by one of the Chief Ministers of State, *Pitrachard* by Name; who, besides his Quality of Great *Mandarin*, was Governor of the Palaces of *Siam* and *Louvo*, and dignified with the Honourable Title of *Opra*, which is one of the most Illustrious and distinguishing Marks of Honour that one is capable of in *Siam*. The discovery of this Plot, the progress it made, and the consequences of it, being the substance of several Letters writ from *Siam* in October 1688, are as follow:

On the 26th of May at Night, *Opra Pitrachard* caused a great many Troops to enter the Castle of *Louvo*, whereby he made himself presently Master of the Person of the King, seized his Adopted Son, and on his two Brothers, giving it out, and making every one of them in particular believe, it was to secure the King's Life from a desperate Conspiracy that lately had been discovered against him; but to the three young Princes he further said to every one of them apart, That the King was so ill that he was past all hopes of Recovery, and that he would make it his business to set the Crown on their Heads. This was done on purpose that they might let him go on, and not interrupt him in the execution of so plausible a Design; and it had all the success that he could have wished or hoped.

Monfieur *Constance* was no sooner acquainted with what had past, and was a carrying on in the Castle, but he went immediately thither, accompanied with a numerous Train of his Friends, and particularly of the *French*, amongst whom
were

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were these Officers of note, *Messieurs de Beauchamp, de Fretteville; the Chevalier des Fourbin, Monsieur Vandrille,* and *de Luiffe*, as he was entring the Castle he told those that were posted round about it, that he was going to see the King; but he did scarcely come within the Gates when they seized on him, and on the *French* Officers, who were all secured and kept together in one of the Apartments of the Palace.

The next day *Opra Pitrachard* sent for *Monsieur Constance* to come to him, and ordered him to go and tell the *French* Officers that there was no design of keeping them Prisoners, that what was done was occasioned by a most dangerous Plot that they had lately discovered against the Life of the King, but that all the Parties concern'd in it not being as yet fully known, they were under the necessity of securing all Persons of Note, until a clearer discovery should be made; *And as for you Monsieur Constance* (said he, with a certain Air of Authority) *I charge you that you say this, and no more to those French Officers; and know, that you shall be narrowly watched and overheard.* This Complemental Visit was only an Artifice that *Opra Pitrachard* used to moderate the Resentments of the *French*, and to hinder them from taking of measures for their common Defence and Security. *Monsieur Constance* went and delivered the Message precisely in the terms he was ordered.

The King of *Siam* had several Troops of Guards about his Person, whereof one was made up of *Europeans* of different Nations, but especially of the *French*. The *Siams's* Troop of Guards, consisting of 150 Men, was Commanded by *French* Officers; these were sent to *Thalapson*, a House of Pleasure the King had at some distance from *Louvo*, whither *Opra Pitrachard*

chard had sent a great Body of the Forces to Encamp, and be in a readiness as occasion should present. Two days after the *French* Officers that had been taken into Custody, and secured at *Louvo*, together with *Monfieur Constance*, were sent thither also under a Strong Guard.

When matters had thus far proceeded, *Opra Pitrachard* sent again for *Monfieur Constance* to have him brought before him, and severely reproached him, charging him with Treachery and Perfidiousness against the King and Government of *Siam*, and then caused him to be put to the ordinary and extraordinary Torture, to force him to discover and declare who were his Accomplices in the Management of the Intreague for making the King a Christian, and subjecting the Kingdom to the *French* Power: And when he had continued him several hours in the Torture, he ordered the King's Adopted Son to be brought to the place, and caused his Head to be cut off immediately, and a string to be run through it, and then to be hung about *Monfieur Constance* his Neck, in the manner of *European Cravats*.

This Tragedy was Acted on the 28th of *May*, the following 29 and 30, *Monfieur Constance* was again appli'd to the Torture, in the cruellest manner that could be devised, having the young Prince's Head always hanging on his Breast Night and Day. Thus they continued to Torment him till the 4th of *June*, that he expired under the violence of the Torture.

His Goods, Family, and all his Effects were also seiz'd every where, and his Family carried into Prison. His Lady, after having undergone a severe Examination, and several Interrogatories put to her, without declaring or confessing

settling what they expected or desired, was at last appli'd to the Torture, which she endured several days together; after which they threw her into Prison, where she was kept three Months with Iron Chains on her Hands, and Fetters on her Feet; at the end whereof they made her and all her Family Slaves, in which disgraceful Quality they took off her Irons, open'd the Prison Doors, and turn'd her out.

Opra Pitrachard who had determin'd with himself to set the Crown on his own Head, after he had once dispatched the King's Adopted Son, and Monsieur *Constance* out of the way, began now to consider how to get rid of the two Princes the King's Brothers, that seem'd to obstruct the execution of his Design; and this was the Expedient he made use of to bring it about. He made each of them in particular, and severally believe, that what he had acted in all this Revolution, was in order to the bringing and setting them on the Throne; but in regard Affairs were not yet in a peaceable and regular Posture, there was a necessity for their retiring for some time to *Thalapsan*, until he should use his utmost endeavour to appease them: These poor unfortunate Princes suffered themselves easily to be persuaded by the Magick of those cunning Insinuations and plausible Pretences to go thither; but they never reached it, being Murthered in the way by a party that was appointed to do that Execution. Then they fell upon all the most considerable Persons that were their Friends and intimate Acquaintance, and caused them to be put to Death in like manner, or imprison'd.

The next step that *Opra Pitrachard* made, was to set himself against the Christians, whom he was resolved to drive out of the Kingdom; and to facilitate it the more, he commanded

manded that all the *Portuguese* Christians should meet together and retire into a little Island near *Siam*, threatening to put all those to Death that should attempt to make their escape out of it.

The *English* had the Misfortune also to feel the Effects of his Indignation and Rage, for they were first Plundered of all they had, and then thrown into Prison. As for the *French* that were at *Siam* and *Louvo*, he made no open Assault upon them at first, because their numbers were too considerable to be treated as the rest were ; and besides he was willing rather to surprize those that were at *Bancock* and at *Morgen*, then openly to attack them. The most considerable Persons of the *French* Nation that were at *Thalapson*, were the Chevaliers *de Cargis*, and *de Fretteville*, Monsieur *de Vandrille*, Mounsieur *de Laisse*, Mounsieur *Bresley*, the Engineer, and another Engineer ; and it was not possible for them to make their escape from *Louvo* as yet: but in conclusion, fearing lest in the progress of these Tragical Revolutions, they should meet with the same fate, that the other Christians dispersed up and down the Kingdom, had found ; they made an escape, and fled towards *Siam*, to the Quarters of the *French* Company, and when they should have the good luck to get thither, their purpose was to have seized on some Ship or other to carry them to the *French* Garison at *Bancock*, where Monsieur *des Farges*, General of the *French* Forces Commanded, and to inform him what had past : But *Opra Pitrachard* being advertised of their flight, early enough to prevent what might follow upon it, sent immediately a detach'd Body of 6 or 7000 Men, Arm'd as if they were ready to give Battel. These few Officers, tho' the bravest and most determin'd Men of their Nation, were much surpriz'd to see so early in the Morning, and within two

C

Leagues

10 *A Relation of the late great Revolution in SIAM,*
Leagues of *Siam* ; so great a Detachment of the Army before and behind them, to hinder their getting into the Town ; and making a vertue of necessity, they put themselves into a poisture of Defence, resolving to sell their Lives at as dear a rate as they could ; but some *Mandarins* coming up to them, told them they were in no danger, in regard they assur'd them, they were come, not only to do them no harm themselves, but to prevent their receiving any from others and their business was to bring them back to *Louvo*, as the King had expressely commanded them : The *French* Gentlemen were soon overcome by the power of so fine and obliging Expressions, and presently surrendred themselves into their hands ; for to do otherwise was not possible for them, there being no proportion betwixt the fewness of their number, and so great a Body as they had to dispute with. And the truth on't is, they were treated the first day with kindness and civility enough ; but it was not so the next, for they strip'd them of all, and ti'd them to Horse-Tails, in which miserable condition they forc'd them to march, and in great Ceremony brought them back to *Louvo*, treating them most outrageously all along as they went, in so much that Monsieur *Bresley* the *Ingineer* dy'd soon after, and the rest had much ado to outlive the Miseries and Indignities they suffered. They no sooner arriv'd at *Louvo*, but they were Chain'd two and two together, by the Neck, and so thrown into Prison ; all their *Domesticks* were treated in like manner, as well as all the other *French* that staid at *Louvo*.

All this was contrived and executed with that diligence and secrecy, that may seem very surprizing and unaccountable to those that hear it : For the *French* that were at *Bangkok* and *Morgen*, had not the least knowledge of what had been

been done in the two Cities of *Siam* and *Louvo*, which was like to have lost them all.

Opra Pitrachard having now taken his measures, and determined to destroy the *French* one way or other, and since he would not venture upon the doing of it by open force, was resolved to try what Cunning and Surprize could do. Wherefore he sent one *Manpai*, who had been the year before in *France*, in Quality of first Ambassador, and since his return was honour'd with the title of *Barcalon*, or Chief Minister of State, to *Bancock*, to perswade Monsieur *des Farges* General of the *French* to come to him, and to tell him that it was the King's express pleasure that he should immediately come and confer with him about some Affairs of the last importance, and make what haste he possibly could to be at *Louvo*.

The General, that was altogether ignorant of what had been done in all this great and sudden Revolution, and suspecting no fraud, believed very readily what the *Barcalon* had told him, and that the King had sent for him, as on other occasions he had often done before; set out from *Bancock* the 7th of *June*, and went by Water; but he had hardly gone two Leagues from the place, when he perceived that some extraordinary business was in agitation, and apprehended there might be some design of putting some indignity upon him: For he could not imagine why he was surrounded with such a great number of Barges and Galleys, Arm'd with Stones and Field-Pieces, that perpetually accompani'd him till he came to *Siam*; where he no sooner arriv'd, but he was immediately taken out, and put into a Palanquin or close Litter, and carried to *Louvo*, being Guarded by several Troops of Armed Men; all this

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still encreased his astonishment, and the more, because he was not wont to be hurri'd nor conducted in so Military a manner, when the King wanted him, or ordered him to come to him, but he had always the privilege of going with great freedom, and less attended.

When he came to *Louvo*, he was straight led to the King's Palace, without allowing him the liberty of going first to the *Jesuits* House to Repose and Refresh himself, as he desired, tho' his intention was rather to be somewhat inform'd, and know the posture of present Affairs, which he thought were much altered. The same day of his arrival he received several Visits from the *Mandarins*, and after Supper he had one from *Opra Pitrachard*, with whom he discoursed some time, and, amongst other things, the *Opra* told him, with an unusual Air of Pride and Haughtiness,

That the King had caused Monsieur Constance to be put to Death for many hainous Crimes and Faults he had been found guilty of; in the management of those Employments he was entrusted with; and that the King would give him his Place, knowing him to be a Man of great Integrity, Faithfulness, and good Understanding in the management of Affairs, and in whom he reposed great Confidence and Trust.

He further told him, *That the King was engaged in a War against the Cochinchinois, and the People of Laos; That there was a necessity of sending for all the French Forces to joyn in a Body, and march against the Enemy, to hinder the Invasion that the Kingdom was threatened with; and that he had also writ to Monsieur Bruham, Governour of Morgen, to the same purpose, to hasten to Louvo, with all his Troops:*

Monsieur

Monſieur *des Farges* ſaw plainly now that theſe Propoſals were nothing but a meer Contrivance, and like ſo many Snares that they had laid to catch him ; which he was fully convinc'd of in a very little time afterwards, as well by the diſtinct Information he receiv'd from ſeveral of his Friends, that by *Opra Pitrachard's* expreſs Order, had leave to make him a Viſit, as by Letters that came to him from his Officers : And began now to conſider with himſelf, what he muſt do to get out of the Danger that his good Nature and Fidelity to the King had ſo unluckily brought him into ; and the beſt Expedient he could think of, was to ſend this Answer to *Opra Pitrachard* :

That the King of France, his Maſter, had ſent him to ſerve the King of SIAM, and that he was now ready to obey his Commands : But that he thought it highly neceſſary to go himſelf in perſon to Bancoek, to bring the Soldiers with him, in regard that the Officers that commanded in his Abſence, would not quit the Fortreſs upon a bare Letter.

This ſeem'd ſo reaſonable, and to carry ſo much probability with it, that he preſently obtain'd leave to return to the Fort ; but on condition to leave his two Sons that came along with him, as Hoſtages for the performance of his promiſe. But before he left *Louvo*, he was much preſs'd by the *Opra* to write to *Monſieur de Bruham*, and ſain would he have been excuſed from complying with him in it : And told him, *That unleſs he ſent an Officer of his own to carry the Letter, it would ſignifie nothing, nor be regarded.*

But

But it was to no purpose to insist on such a Condition, for it was positively deny'd him, and yet write he must, being under an unavoidable necessity of doing it; yet in writing, he did so disguise his Hand and Stile, by chusing such extravagant Terms and unusual Expressions, as that Monsieur *Bruham* might know, in case the Letter came to his hands, there was some further Mystery in it, and that he was not to give Credit to it; and, by good Providence, it fell out just as he could have wished, the Letter being received and understood in the Sense it was designed.

Monsieur *des Farges* return'd no sooner to *Bancock*, but he abandon'd the Little Fort, and drew off all the *French* into the Great Fort, not having Men enough to hold out in both places. All the Houses that were near to it, he caused to be pillag'd, and then burnt; and all the Cannon that he could not carry away or use, to be nail'd or broken. And because he had not time enough to demolish or raze the Fort, by reason of the great number of Forces that *Opra Pitrachard* sent after him, and follow'd him to take possession of the place; he did what was possible to ruin it all to pieces with his Cannon.

Opra Pitrachard perceiving by this, that Monsieur *des Farges* had discover'd his Rebellious Designs and Practices, and that there was no prospect or hopes of his Return with his Soldiers to *SIAM*, he sent down an Army of about Threescore thousand Men, made up of *Mahumetans*, *Chinese*, and *Malayans*, against the Fort of *Bancock*, to besiege the *French* in't, with Orders to cut all their Throats. But such was the Resolution and Bravery wherewithal they defended themselves, that this open Investing and Attacking
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of them, proved as Unsuccessful, as the Artifices that were used to Trepan them to come to *SIAM* were ineffectual: For when so vast an Army had endeavoured all they could, during two Months close Siege, by frequent Attacks and Storming, to force their Entry into the place, and had been always beat off with great Loss, by the handful of *French*, who were not in all above Three hundred, he saw himself obliged, at last, to send to the General, and ask Conditions of Peace.

During this Siege, all the *French* who were at *Siam* and *Louvo* were made close Prisoners, and treated with the greatest extremity of Rigor and Severity, without consideration of Quality or Age. Nor could the Bishop of *Mettropolis*, who had lived long amongst them, and was the Apostolick Vicar in the greatest part of of the *East-Indies*, be exempted from his share of the common Calamity that fell upon his Profession and Countrey-Men: For when *Opra Pitrachard* saw he could not recover *Bancock* out of the hands of the *French* by force, he caus'd the old Bishop to be sent for, and conducted to the Fort and there to be strip'd and ti'd to a Gibbet, with a Halter about his Neck, and fastned at the place where the *French* Cannon were most levell'd, and did most execution, hoping that the sight of so moving a Spectacle, and the consideration they had of the Person of their Bishop, should prevail with them to moderate the fury of their Guns, intermit their Firing, and hearken to a Treaty of Peace.

All the *French* Jesuits and Missionary Priests that were any where in the Kingdom, were seiz'd, and carri'd Prisoners to *Louvo*, being Accused of Sedition and Treason against the Government; all their Goods, Furniture, and Effects were likewise seiz'd and confiscated. All

All this could not be acted without coming to the knowledge of Monsieur *de Brubam*, Governor of *Morgen*, having now been fully inform'd from several hands of what had past both at *Louvo* and *Siam*, he began to consider how to extricate himself out of the great and imminent danger he was every where surrounded with ; for he had but fifty two Souldiers, three Captains, three Lieutenants, and three Ensigns in all, to Guard a large Fortress that was open on all sides. The best thing he could think of in that extremity, was to seize a small Frigat of 26 Guns, belonging to the King of *Siam*, to save himself and his Men upon, when he should be driven to his last shifts : This he happily executed towards the end of *June*, and it was of great use to him in the conclusion of the Affair : For when he had been Besieged and closely Attack'd for seventeen days together, by an Army of Twelve thousand Men, assaulting them often, and as often repulsed ; and wanting Water and other necessary Provisions, without any possible hopes of being relieved or refreshed, he was constrain'd, at last, to abandon the place, and carry all his Men, and what conveniently else he could, on Board the Frigat, and so got safe off.

On the 25th of *July*, the Bishop of *Metropolis* being released out of the miserable and dangerous Circumstances he was put into, before *Bancock* was sent into the place, to obtain a Commission and full Power from the General Monsieur *des Forges*, to negotiate a Treaty of Peace with such persons as *Opra Pitrachard* should appoint for that purpose ; which was soon granted him, and next day he return'd to *SIAM* to conclude it.

A little

A Little time after, News was brought that the King of *Siam* was dead, without telling either the day or manner of his Death : Whereupon *Opra Pitrachard* began to prepare for his Coronation, and about five days after he set out from *Lowvo* in great State and Magnificence, and came to *Siam*, where he had himself Crown'd King without any Dispute or Opposition, about the beginning of *August* 1688.

September 30. News was brought that a Peace was concluded and sign'd betwixt the new King and the *French*, on the following Conditions,

That the French should surrender the Fort of Bancock.

That all the French should have leave to depart the Kingdom.

That they should have two Frigats belonging to the French Company ; a Ship of the French King's called the Auriflame, and a fourth of 74 Guns that the King of Siam was to give to Monsieur des Farges to Embarque on, and Transport them out of the King of Siam's Dominions.

This is the substance of what is contain'd in the several Letters dated from *Siam*, *October* last was twelve-moneth ; and by the Relation we have, by Advice from the Coast of *Coramandel* of the 20th of *February* last, we are further inform'd, That *Monsieur des Farges* was arrived on that Coast with the four Ships, having all the *French* as well Secular and Military, as the Ecclesiasticks on board them, that were any where to be heard of or known to be in the

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Kingdom of *Siam*, and that the King had publisht a Declaration, severely prohibiting any *French* to stay in the Kingdom; and threatening that if any one of them should be found to stay behind, they should be immediately upon discovery put to Death; and all the *Europeans* that should harbour or conceal them, should be treated with the same rigor.

Other Letters do further add, That Monsieur *des Farges* had before his departure from *Bancock*, deliver'd up into the hands of the present King of *Siam*, the Unfortunate Widow of Monsieur *Constance*, upon a fancy that the Jesuits had put into his head; That she being a Christian, and extreemly beloved by the King's Son, will marry him, and contribute her endeavours to make him a Christian; with which plausible Imaginations those good Fathers flatter themselves, and hope once more to be re-established in that Kingdom with no less Advantages of Power, Credit and Fortune than they had before.

And, that when the Treaty was sign'd betwixt the King of *Siam* and the *French* General, all the *French* and *English* that were made Prisoners at *Louvo*, were the next day after Conducted to *Siam*, and set at Liberty.

A DIARY of one of the French Officers that served at Morgen under the Command of Monsieur de Bruham, containing several particulars relating to the former Discourse.

ON the 25th of June 1683, being upon Duty, and Commanding a Company of fifty *Siamese* Soldiers in the little Fort of *Morgen*, I was seized on by my own Men, and made Prisoner, and for four days together was fastened to a Stake, with Iron Chains about my Body, on my Hands and Feet.

On the 29th I was carried out to see if I could know and discover some *French* Men that had been killed during the vigorous Defence that *Monsieur de Bruham* made in the Fort, and whilst he was drawing off his Men out of it, and retiring into the Frigate, upon which he made his escape; for there were about thirteen dead Bodies lying upon the place. And when I had told them all that I thought proper for them to know upon that matter, the *Mandarins* that Commanded in the Army that besieged the Fort, gave orders to put me to the Torture, to force me to declare and make information, that I had often heard *Monsieur de Bruham* say, That his being and commanding at *Morgen* was altogether unknown to the King of Siam, and by the order of *Monsieur Constance* only, on purpose to make himself Master of the Countrey; and that *Monsieur de Bruham* expected several Ships with Men, Arms, and Ammunition from France,

20 *A Relation of the late great Revolution in SIAM,*
to enable him to carry on that Design more effectually. I
was appli'd to, and kept in the torture four hours toge-
ther.

On the 7th of July, the *Mandarins* made me go for *Siam*
in the company of a *French Soldier* call'd *Picquard*, who
had the misfortune to be made a Prisoner the same day
that *Monsieur de Bruham* made his Retreat from *Morgen* ;
and tho' we were but two Men, and both in Chains, yet
such was the mistrust they entertain'd of us, that they
would needs send above Sixty Soldiers to guard us
thither.

On the 17th I came to *Siam*, and on the 19th was brought
to *Louvo*. The first place they brought me into, was the
great Hall where the *Barcalon* was sitting with many *Man-*
darins about him, who commanded me to be Interrogated
very strictly upon several Matters relating to *Monsieur*
Bruham.

Next Morning I was informed by a Missionary Priest,
who accidentally discovered the place where I was kept
Prisoner, that the Bishop of *Metellopolis* was gone to *Ban-*
cock, by the express command of *Opra Pitrachard*, to nego-
tiate a Treaty of Peace with *Monsieur des Farges* our Gene-
ral, and that they were in daily expectation of hearing of
the conclusion of it. This was the first time that I had
any tolerable ground to entertain my self with the hopes
of Life, since my falling into their hands ; for 'till now I
gave all for lost.

On the 25th the Bishop return'd to *Louvo* with full
power from *Monsieur des Farges*, to Treat about a Peace ;
and

and from that time forward *Opra Pitrachard* began to desist from his cruel Treatment of the *French*, and other Christians that were in his power.

In the Month of *July*, the King of *Siam* hapned to die, but the manner of it, nor the certain day, being as yet unknown, *Opra Pitrachard* set out from *Louvo* on the last day of the Month to *Siam*, where he was Crown'd with great Ceremony, and without any opposition. Next day after the Coronation, he order'd all the *French* and *English* that were at *Siam* and *Louvo* to be set at liberty.

On the 3d of *August* I arrived at *Siam*, with four other *French* Officers, namely *Messieurs de Fretteville, de Vandrille, des Carges, and de Laisse.*

On the 9th *Opra Pitrachard* now King of *Siam*, sent us all five to *Bancock*, not to our own General, as we hoped, but to his General that Commanded the *Malayans*, who kept us Prisoners almost a Month; and all the *French* that were left at *Siam* were delivered into the Custody of the *Jesuits*, and of the Chief Factor of the *French* Company of Merchants, to be reponsible for them.

The King being resolved to have a Peace concluded at any Rate, sent us at last to *Monsieur des Farges*, who would hearken to no Treaty, without allowing us the benefit of being comprehended in it, by which means our liberty was obtain'd.

On the 30th of *September* the Peace was concluded and sign'd. Two days after *Monsieur des Farges*, our General, sent

22 *A Relation of the great Revolution in SIAM, &c.*

sent me from *Bancock* to *Morgen*, to see what was become of *Monsieur de Bruham*, and to acquaint him that the Peace was concluded. The King of *SIAM* gave me a *Mandarin* to accompany me, and to provide for me such things as were necessary during my Journey.

On the 12th of *October* I arriv'd ^{a P.} *Morgen*, where I stay'd not long, because I could learn nothing about *Monsieur de Bruham*.

On the First of *November* I Embarqued on a small Frigat of the King of *SIAM*'s, and went upon the Rivers of *Tanay*, *Musavan*, and *Sorian*, in the Kingdom of *Pegu*, thinking to have found him in some of those places: But missing of him there, I was obliged to pass by the Islands of *Rey*, and to go on shore at *Seroide*, where, by some certain marks, I knew that *Monsieur Bruham* had touch'd, and especially by some pieces of the *French* Soldiers Cloaths that seem'd to have been left there on purpose to give us notice of their passage that way.

On the 12th of *November* I return'd again to *Morgen*, where finding a Ship belonging to the Royal French Company, call'd *The Cocq*, commanded by *Monsieur Darmagnan*, I Embarqued thereupon two days after, to go to *Pondichery*, where I was ordered to wait for *Monsieur des Farges*, according to the Instructions he gave me at parting from *Bancock*.

F I N I S.

