

CHAPTER I.

THE AUTHOR GIVETH SOME ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF AND FAMILY: HIS FIRST INDUCEMENTS TO TRAVEL. HE IS SHIPWRECKED, AND SWIMS FOR HIS LIFE; GETS SAFE ONSHORE IN THE COUNTRY OF LILLIPUT; IS MADE A PRISONER, AND CARRIED UP THE COUNTRY.

My father had a small estate in Nottinghamshire; I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emmanuel College in Cambridge at fourteen years old, but the charge of maintaining me being too great for a narrow fortune, I was bound **apprentice** to Mr. James Bates, an eminent surgeon in London, and my father now and then sending me small sums of money, I laid them out in learning navigation and other parts of the mathematics useful to those who intend to travel.

When I left Mr. Bates, I went down to my father, from whom I got forty **pounds**, and a promise of thirty **pounds** a year, to maintain me at Leyden. There I studied **physic** two years and seven months, knowing it would be useful in long voyages.

I determined to go again to sea. I accepted an advantageous offer from Captain William Prichard, master of the "Antelope," who was making a voyage to the South Sea. We set sail from Bristol, May 4, 1699; and our voyage at first was very prosperous.

But after some weeks at sea, we were driven by a violent storm, to the northwest of **Van Diemen's Land**. By an observation, we found ourselves in the latitude of 30 degrees and 2 minutes south. Twelve of our crew were dead by immoderate labor and ill food; the rest were in a very weak condition.

On the fifth of November, which was the beginning of summer in those parts, the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock within half a cable's length of the ship; but the wind was so strong, that we were driven directly upon it, and immediately split. Six of the crew,

of whom I was one, having let down the boat into the sea, made a **shift** to get clear of the ship and trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves.

In about half an hour, the boat was upset by a sudden flurry from the north. What became of my companions in the boat I cannot tell, but conclude they were all lost.

For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me, and when I was almost gone, and able to struggle no longer, I found myself within my depth; and, by this time, the storm was much abated.

I got to the shore and advanced forward near half a mile, but could not discover any sign of houses or inhabitants. I was extremely tired, and with that, and the heat of the weather, and about a pint of brandy that I had drunk as I left the ship, I found myself much inclined to sleep. I lay down on the grass, which was very soft, where I slept sounder than ever I remembered to have done in my life, and, as I reckoned, about nine hours; for, when I awaked, it was just daylight. I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir: for as I happened to lie on my back, I found my arms and legs were strongly fastened on each side to the ground; and my hair, which was long and thick, tied down in the same manner. I likewise felt several slender **ligatures** across my body, from my arm-pits to my thighs.

In a little time, I felt something *alive* moving on my left leg, which, advancing gently forward over my breast, came almost up to my chin; when, bending mine eyes downward, as much as I could, I perceived it to be a human creature, not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver at his back. In the mean time I felt at least forty more of the same kind following the first.

I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud that they all ran back in a fright. However, they soon returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill, but distinct voice — *Hekinah degul!* The others repeated the same words several times.

I lay all this while, as the reader may believe, in great uneasiness. At length, struggling to get loose, I had the fortune to break the strings, and wrench out the pegs, that fastened my left arm to the ground. At the same time, with a violent pull, which gave me excessive pain, I a little loosened the strings that tied down my hair on the left side, so that I was just able to turn my head about two inches.

But the creatures ran off a second time, before I could seize them; whereupon there was a great shout in a very shrill accent, and in an instant, I felt above an hundred arrows discharged on my left hand, which pricked me like so many needles; and, besides, they shot another flight into the air, whereof many, I suppose, fell on my body (though I felt them not), and some on my face, which I immediately covered with my left hand.

When the people observed I was quiet, they discharged no more arrows: but about four yards from me, over against my right ear, I heard a knocking for above an hour, like people at work. When, turning my head that way, as well as the pegs and strings would permit me, I saw a stage erected, about a foot and a half from the ground, from whence one of them, who seemed to be a person of quality, made me a long speech, whereof I understood not one syllable. But before he began his oration, he cried out three times, *Langro debul san*, Whereupon immediately about fifty of the inhabitants came and cut the strings that fastened the left side of my head, which gave me the liberty of turning it to the right, and of observing the person and gesture of him who was to speak. He appeared to be of a middle age, and taller than any of the other three who attended him. He acted every part of an **orator**, and I could observe many periods of threatenings, and others of promises, pity, and kindness.

I answered in a few words, but in the most submissive manner, and, being almost famished with hunger, I could not forbear showing my impatience by putting my finger frequently on my mouth, to signify that I wanted food. The *hurgo* (for so they call a great lord, as I afterwards learned) understood me very well. He commanded that

several ladders should be applied to my sides, on which above a hundred of the inhabitants mounted, and walked towards my mouth, laden with baskets full of meat.

I observed there was the flesh of several animals, but could not distinguish them by the taste. There were shoulders, legs, and loins, shaped like those of mutton, and very well dressed, but smaller than the wings of a lark. I ate them by two or three at a mouthful, and took three loaves at a time, about the bigness of musket bullets. They supplied me as fast as they could, showing a thousand marks of wonder and astonishment at my bulk and appetite.

I then made another sign that I wanted drink. Being a most ingenious people, they slung up with great dexterity one of their largest **hogsheads**. I drank it off at a **draught**; which I might well do, for it hardly held half a pint, and tasted like a small wine of Burgundy, but much more delicious. When I had performed these wonders, they shouted for joy, and danced upon my breast, repeating, several times, as they did at first, *Hekinah degul*.

After some time, when they observed that I made no more demands for meat, there appeared before me a person of high rank from his imperial majesty. His excellency, having mounted on the small of my right leg, advanced forwards up to my face, with about a dozen of his **retinue**, and spoke about ten minutes, without any signs of anger, but with a kind of determinate resolution, often pointing forwards, which, as I afterwards found, was towards the capital city, about half a mile distant, **whither** it was agreed by his majesty in council that I must be conveyed.

I answered in few words, but to no purpose, that I desired my liberty. It appeared that he understood me well enough, for he shook his head by way of **disapprobation**, and held his hand in a posture to show that I must be carried as a prisoner. However, he made *other* signs, to let me understand that I should have meat and drink enough, and very good treatment. I gave tokens to let them know that they

might do with me as they pleased. Upon this, the *hurgo* and his train withdrew, with much civility, and cheerful **countenances**.

Soon after, I heard a general shout, with frequent repetitions of the words, *Peplom selan*, and I felt great numbers of the people on my left side, relaxing the cords to such a degree that I was able to turn upon my right, and to ease myself with **making water**, which I very plentifully did, to the great astonishment of the people who, conjecturing by my motions what I was going to do, immediately opened to the right and left on that side to avoid the torrent which fell with such noise and violence from me.

But, before this, they had daubed my face and both my hands with a sort of ointment very pleasant to the smell, which, in a few minutes, removed all the smart of their arrows. These circumstances, added to the refreshment I had received by their **victuals** and drink, which were very nourishing, disposed me to sleep. I slept about eight hours, as I was afterwards assured; and it was no wonder, for the physicians, by the emperor's order, had mingled a sleeping potion in the **hogshead** of wine.

These people are most excellent mathematicians, and arrived to a great perfection in mechanics, by the countenance and encouragement of the emperor, who is a renowned patron of learning. Five hundred carpenters and engineers were immediately set at work to prepare the greatest engine they had. It was a frame of wood, raised three inches from the ground, about seven foot long and four wide, moving upon twenty-two wheels. The shout I heard was upon the arrival of this engine, which, it seems, set out in four hours after my landing. It was brought parallel to me, as I lay. But the principal difficulty was to raise and place me in this vehicle.

Eighty poles, each one foot high, were erected for this purpose, and very strong cords, of the bigness of **packthread** were fastened by hooks to many bandages, which the workmen had **girt** round my neck, my hands, my body, and my legs. Nine hundred of the strongest men were employed to draw up these cords by many pulleys fastened on

the poles; and thus, in less than three hours, I was raised and slung into the engine, and there tied fast.

All this I was told; for, while the whole operation was performing, I lay in a profound sleep, by the force of the **soporiferous** medicine infused into my liquor. Fifteen hundred of the emperor's largest horses, each about four inches and a half high, were employed to draw me towards the metropolis, which, as I said, was half a mile distant.

The next morning, we arrived within two hundred yards of the city gates. The emperor, and all his court, came out to meet us; but his great officers would by no means suffer his majesty to endanger his person by mounting upon my body.

At the place where the carriage stopped, there stood an ancient temple, esteemed to be the largest in the whole kingdom. In this **edifice** it was determined I should lodge. The great gate, fronting to the north, was about four feet high, and almost two feet wide, through which I could easily creep. On each side of the gate was a small window, not above six inches from the ground; into that on the left side the king's **smiths** conveyed **four score and eleven** chains, which were locked to my left leg with six-and-thirty padlocks.

Over against this temple there was a **turret** at least five feet high. Here the emperor ascended, with many principal lords of his court, to have an opportunity of viewing me. It was reckoned that above an hundred thousand inhabitants came out of the town upon the same errand; and, I believe there could not be fewer than ten thousand, at several times who mounted my body by the help of ladders.

When the workmen found it was impossible for me to break loose, they cut all the strings that bound me. The chains that held my left leg being fixed within four inches of the gate, allowed me to creep in, and lie at my full length in the temple.

CHAPTER II.

When I found myself on my feet, I looked about me, and must confess I never beheld a more entertaining **prospect**. The country around, appeared like a continued garden, and the enclosed fields resembled so many beds of flowers, while the town looked like the painted scene of a city in a theatre.

When I came back out of my house, the emperor was already descended from the tower, and advancing on horseback towards me. When he **alighted**, he surveyed me round with great admiration, but kept beyond the length of my chains. He ordered his cooks and butlers, who were already prepared, to give me victuals and drink.

He is taller, by almost the breadth of my nail, than any of his court, which alone is enough to strike an awe into the beholders. His features are strong and masculine, with an Austrian lip and arched nose, his complexion olive, his countenance erect, his body and limbs well proportioned, all his motions graceful, and his **deportment** majestic. He was then past his prime, being twenty-eight years and three-quarters old, of which he had reigned about seven in great **felicity**.

For the better convenience of beholding him, I lay on my left side left, so that my face was parallel to his, and he stood but three yards off. However, I have had him since many times in my hand, and therefore cannot be deceived in the description.

His dress was very plain and simple, the fashion of it between the Asiatic and the European; but he had on his head a light helmet of gold, adorned with jewels, and a plume on the crest. He held his sword drawn in his hand, to defend himself, if I should happen to break loose; it was almost three inches long; the hilt and scabbard were gold, enriched with diamonds. His voice was shrill, but very clear and articulate, and I could distinctly hear it, when I stood up.

His imperial majesty spoke often to me, and I returned answers, but neither of us could understand a syllable. Several of his priests and lawyers were commanded to address themselves to me; and I spoke to them in as many languages as I had the least smattering of, but all to no purpose.

After about two hours, the court retired, and I was left with a strong guard; but some of the crowd had the impudence to shoot their arrows at me as I sat on the ground by the door of my house, whereof one very narrowly missed my left eye. But the colonel ordered six of the ring-leaders to be seized, and thought no punishment so proper as to deliver them - bound - into my hands; which some of his soldiers accordingly did.

I took them all on my right hand, put five of them into my coat-pocket; and as to the sixth, I made as if I would eat him alive. The poor man squalled terribly, and the colonel and his officers were in much pain, especially when they saw me take out my penknife. But I soon put them out of fear, for, looking mildly, and immediately cutting the strings he was bound with, I set him gently on the ground, and away he ran. I treated the rest in the same manner, taking them one by one out of my pocket; and I observed both the soldiers and the people were highly obliged at this mark of my **clemency**, which was represented very much to my advantage at court.

Towards night, I got with some difficulty into my house, where I lay on the ground, and continued to do so about a **fortnight**, during which time the emperor gave orders to have a bed prepared for me. An hundred and fifty of their beds, sewn together, made up the breadth and length of it; and these were four double, which, however, kept me but very indifferently from the hardness of the floor, which was of smooth stone.

In the meantime, the emperor held frequent councils to debate what course should be taken with me. They apprehended my breaking loose; that my diet would be very expensive, and might cause a famine. In the midst of these consultations, several officers of the army went to

the door of the great council-chamber, and two of them being admitted, gave an account of my behavior to the six criminals above-mentioned, which made so favorable an impression in the breast of his majesty, that an imperial commission was issued out, obliging all the villages nine hundred yards round the city to deliver every morning, six **beeves**, forty sheep, and other victuals, for my sustenance; together with a proportionable quantity of bread and wine, and other liquors; for the due payment of which his majesty gave assignments upon his treasury.

It was likewise ordered that three hundred tailors should make me a suit of clothes, after the fashion of the country; that six of his majesty's greatest scholars should be employed to instruct me in their language; and lastly, that the emperor's horses, and those of the nobility and troops of guards, should be exercised in my sight, to accustom themselves to me.

All these orders were duly put in execution, and in about three weeks I made a great progress in learning their language; during which time the emperor frequently honored me with his visits, and was pleased to assist my masters in teaching me. We began already to converse together in some sort; and the first words I learnt were to express my desire that he would please to give me my liberty, which I every day repeated on my knees. His answer, as I could apprehend, was, that this must be a work of time, not to be thought on without the advice of his council, and that first I must *lumos kelmin pesso desmar lon emposo*; that is, swear a peace with him and his kingdom.

In the meantime, he ordered three thousand of his choicest troops with their bows and arrows just ready to discharge. He then desired me to draw my **scimitar**, which, although it had got some rust by the sea-water, was in most parts exceeding bright. I did so, and immediately all the troops gave a shout between terror and surprise; for the sun shone clear, and the reflection dazzled their eyes as I waved the scimitar to and fro in my hand. His majesty, was less daunted than

I could expect; he ordered me to return it into the scabbard, and cast it on the ground as gently as I could,

The next thing he demanded was one of the hollow iron pillars, by which he meant my pocket-pistols. I drew it out, and at his desire, as well as I could, expressed the use of it; and charging it only with powder, which, by the closeness of my pouch, happened to escape wetting in the sea, I first cautioned the emperor not to be afraid, and then I let it off in the air. Hundreds fell down in astonishment, as if they had been struck dead; and even the emperor, although he stood his ground, could not recover himself in some time.

I delivered up both my pistols, and then my pouch of powder and bullets, begging him that the former might be kept from the fire, for it would kindle with the smallest spark, and blow up his imperial palace into the air.

I likewise delivered up my watch, which the emperor was very curious to see, and commanded two of his tallest yeomen of the guards to bear it on a pole upon their shoulders.

I then gave up my purse, with nine large pieces of gold, and some smaller ones; my knife, my comb and silver snuffbox, and my handkerchief. My scimitar, pistols, and pouch were conveyed in carriages to his majesty's stores; but the rest of my goods were returned to me.

CHAPTER III.

My gentleness and good behavior had gained so far on the emperor and his court, and indeed upon the army and the people in general, that I began to conceive hopes of getting my liberty in a short time. I had now made a good progress in understanding and speaking their language.

The emperor had a mind, one day, to entertain me with several of the country shows, wherein they exceed all nations I have known, both for **dexterity** and magnificence. I was diverted with none so much as that of the rope-dancers, performed upon a slender white thread, extended about two feet, and twelve inches from the ground.

This **diversion** is only practised by those persons who are candidates for great employments and high favor at court. They are trained in this art from their youth, and are not always of noble birth or liberal education. When a great office is vacant, either by death or disgrace (which often happens) five or six of those candidates petition the emperor to entertain his majesty, and the court, with a dance on the rope, and whoever jumps the highest, without falling, succeeds in **the office**.

These diversions are often attended with fatal accidents, whereof great numbers are on record. I myself have seen two or three candidates break a limb. But the danger is much greater when the ministers themselves are commanded to show their dexterity, for, by contending to excel themselves and their fellows, they strain so far that there is hardly one of them who has not received a fall, and some of them, two or three.

About two or three days before I was set at liberty, there arrived an express to inform his majesty that some of his subjects, riding near the place where I was first taken up, had seen a great black substance lying on the ground, very oddly shaped, extending its edges round as wide as his majesty's bed-chamber, and rising up in the middle as high

as a man; that it was no living creature, as they had at first **apprehended**, for it lay on the grass without motion; and some of them had walked round it several times; that, by mounting upon each other's shoulders, they had got to the top, which was flat and even, and, stamping upon it, they found it was hollow within; that they humbly conceived it might be something belonging to the man-mountain; and if his majesty pleased, they would undertake to bring it with only five horses.

I presently knew what they meant: *my hat*, which I thought had been lost at sea. I **intreated** his imperial majesty to give orders it might be brought to me as soon as possible, and the next day the wagoners arrived with it, but not in a very good condition; they had bored two holes in the brim, within an inch and a half of the edge, and fastened two hooks in the holes; these hooks were tied by a long cord to the harness; and thus my hat was dragged along for above half an English mile.

Two days after this adventure, the emperor, having ordered that part of his army which quarters in and about his metropolis to be in readiness, took a fancy of diverting himself in a very singular manner. He desired I would stand like a colossus, with my legs as far **asunder** as I conveniently could. He then commanded his general, who was an old, experienced leader - and a great patron of mine - to draw up the troops in close order and march them under them me. This body consisted of three thousand foot and a thousand horses. His majesty gave orders upon pain of death that every soldier in his march should observe the strictest decency with regard to my person, which however could not prevent some of the younger officers from turning up their eyes as they passed under me, and to confess the truth, my breeches at that time were in so ill a condition that they afforded some opportunities for laughter *and* admiration.

I had sent so many memorials and petitions for my liberty that his majesty was at length persuaded to comply; but prevailed, that the

articles and conditions upon which I should be set free, and to which I must swear, should be drawn up by myself.

These articles were brought to me and after they were read I was demanded to swear to the performance of them, first in the manner of my own country, and afterwards in the method prescribed by their laws; which was, to hold my right foot in my left hand, and to place the middle finger of my right hand on the crown of my head, and my thumb on the tip of my right ear. I have made a translation of the article, word for word, as near as I was able, which I here offer to the public:

His most sublime majesty proposeth to the man-mountain, lately arrived at our celestial dominions, the following articles, which by a solemn oath he shall be obliged to perform.

First. The man-mountain shall not depart from our **dominions** without our license under our great seal.

Secondly. He shall not presume to come into our metropolis without our express order, at which time the inhabitants shall have two hours warning to keep within their doors.

Thirdly. The said man-mountain shall confine his walks to our principal high roads, and not offer to walk or lie down in a meadow or field of corn.

Fourthly. As he walks the said roads, he shall take the utmost care not to trample upon the bodies of any of our loving subjects, their horses or carriages, nor take any of our subjects into his hands without their own consent.

Fifthly. If an express requires extraordinary **dispatch**, the man-mountain shall be obliged to carry in his pocket the messenger and horse and return the said messenger back (if so required) safe to our imperial presence.

Sixthly. He shall be our ally against our enemies in the island of Blefuscu, and do his utmost to destroy their fleet, which is now preparing to invade us.

Lastly. That upon his solemn oath to observe all the above articles, the said man-mountain shall have a daily allowance of meat and drink sufficient for the support of 1,724 of our subjects, with free access to our royal person, and other marks of our favor.

Given at our palace at Belfaborac, the twelfth day of the ninety-first moon of our reign.

I swore and subscribed to these articles with great cheerfulness and content, whereupon my chains were immediately unlocked, and I was at full liberty. The emperor himself in person did me the honor to be by at the whole ceremony.

I made only one qualification to my pledge of loyalty to Liliput in its quarrel with Blefescu. I told the emperor that I would do no violence against any man of any nation whatsoever. The emperor said nothing in reply to my statement; but he set his face in a look of grim and silent anger.

CHAPTER IV.

The first request I made, after I had obtained my liberty, was that I might have license to see Mildendo, the **metropolis**; which the emperor easily granted me, but with a special charge to do no hurt either to the inhabitants or their houses. The people had notice, by proclamation, of my design to visit the town.

I stepped over the great western gate, and passed very gently, and sidling, through the two principal streets, only in my short waistcoat, for fear of damaging the roofs and eaves of the houses with the skirts of my coat. I walked with the utmost circumspection, to avoid treading on any stragglers who might remain in the streets; although the orders were very strict, that all the people should keep in their houses at their own peril.

The emperor's palace is in the center of the city, where the two great streets meet. It is enclosed by a wall of two foot high, and twenty foot distant from the buildings. I had his majesty's permission to step over the wall; and the space being so wide between that and the palace, I could easily view it on every side.

The emperor had a great desire that I should see the magnificence of his palace; but this I was not able to do until three days after.

I made two stools, each about three foot high, and strong enough to bear my weight. The people, having received notice a second time, I went again through the city to the palace, with my two stools in my hands. When I came to the side of the outer court, I stood upon one stool, and took the other in my hand; this I lifted over the roof, and gently set it down on the space between the first and second court, which was eight foot wide. I then stepped over the building very conveniently, from one stool to the other, and drew up the first after me with a hooked stick.

By this contrivance, I got into the innermost court; and, lying down upon my side, I applied my face to the windows of the middle stories, which were left open on purpose, and discovered the most splendid apartments that can be imagined. There I saw the empress and the young princes in their several lodgings, with their chief attendants about them. Her imperial majesty was pleased to smile very graciously upon me, and gave me out of the window her hand to kiss.

One morning, about a **fortnight** after I had obtained my liberty, Reldresal, principal secretary (as they style him) for private affairs, came to my house, and desired I give him an hour's audience, which I readily consented to. He began with compliments on my liberty; said he might pretend to some merit in it; but however, added, that if it had not been for the present situation of things at court, perhaps I might not have obtained it so soon. For, said he, as flourishing a condition as we appear to be in to foreigners, we labor under two mighty evils: a violent faction at home, and the danger of an invasion, by a most potent enemy, from abroad.

Now, in the midst of these **intestine** disquiets, we are threatened with an invasion from the island of Blefuscu, which is the other great empire of the universe, almost as large and powerful as this of his majesty.

These two mighty powers have, as I was going to tell you, been engaged in a most obstinate war for six-and-thirty moons past. It began upon the following occasion: It is allowed on all hands, that the primitive way of breaking eggs, before we eat them, was upon the larger end; but his present majesty's grandfather, while he was a boy, going to eat an egg, and breaking it according to the ancient practice, happened to cut one of his fingers. Whereupon the emperor, his father, published an edict commanding all his subjects, upon great penalties, to break the smaller end of their eggs.

The people so highly resented this law, that our histories tell us, there have been six rebellions raised on that account, wherein one emperor lost his life, and another his crown. These **civil commotions**

were constantly fomented by the monarchs of Blefuscu; and when they were quelled, the exiles always fled for refuge to that empire. It is computed that eleven thousand persons have, at several times, suffered death rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller end.

During the course of these troubles, the Emperors of Blefuscu did frequently **expostulate**, by their ambassadors, accusing us of making a **schism** in religion, by offending against a fundamental doctrine of our great prophet Lustrog, in the fifty-fourth chapter of the Blundecral (which is their Al Koran – sacred book) This, however, is thought to be a mere strain upon the text; for the words are these:

"That all true believers shall break their eggs at the convenient end."

Now, the Big-endian exiles have found so much credit in the emperor of Blefuscu's court, and so much private assistance and encouragement from their party here at home, that a bloody war has been carried on between the two empires during which time we have lost forty capital ships, and a much greater number of smaller vessels, together with thirty thousand of our best seamen and soldiers; and the damage received by the enemy is reckoned to be somewhat greater than ours. However, they have now equipped a numerous fleet, and are just preparing to make a **descent** upon us; and his imperial majesty, placing great confidence in your valor and strength, has commanded me to lay this account of his affairs before you.

I desired the secretary to present my humble duty to the emperor, and to let him know that I was ready, with the hazard of my life, to defend his person and state against all invaders, so long as I not be required to do violence to innocent people of any nation. The king scowled silently at this insistence.

CHAPTER V.

THE AUTHOR, BY AN EXTRAORDINARY STRATAGY, PREVENTS AN INVASION. A HIGH TITLE OF HONOR IS CONFERRED UPON HIM. AMBASSADORS ARRIVE FROM THE EMPEROR OF BLEFUSCU, AND **SUE FOR PEACE**. THE EMPRESS'S APARTMENT ON FIRE, BY AN ACCIDENT; THE AUTHOR INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE REST OF THE PALACE.

The empire of Blefuscu is an island, situated to the north northeast side of Lilliput, from whence it is parted only by a channel of eight hundred yards wide. I communicated to his majesty a project I had formed, of seizing the enemy's whole fleet; which, as our scouts assured us, lay at anchor in the harbor, ready to sail with the first fair wind.

I walked to the northeast coast, over against Blefuscu; where, lying down behind a hillock, I took out my small perspective glass, and viewed the enemy's fleet at anchor, consisting of about fifty **men-of-war**, and a great number of transports; I then came back to my house, and gave orders for a great quantity of the strongest cable and bars of iron. The cable was about as thick as packthread, and the bars of the length and size of a knitting needle. I tripled the cable, to make it stronger; and, for the same reason, I twisted three of the iron bars together, bending the extremities into a hook.

Having thus fixed fifty hooks to as many cables, I went back to the northeast coast, and putting off my coat, shoes, and stockings, walked into the sea in my leather **jerkin**, about half an hour before high-water. I waded with what haste I could, and swam in the middle about thirty yards, until I felt the ground; I arrived at the fleet in less than half an hour. The enemy were so frightened, when they saw me, that they leaped out of their ships, and swam to shore. I then took my

tackling, and fastening a hook to the hole at the prow of each, I tied all the cords together at the end.

While I was thus employed, the enemy discharged several thousand arrows, many of which stuck in my hands and face. My greatest **apprehension** was for mine eyes, which I should have infallibly lost, if I had not suddenly thought of an expedient. I kept, among other little necessaries, a pair of spectacles, in a private pocket, which had escaped the emperor's searchers. These I took out, and fastened them as strongly as I could upon my nose, and thus armed, went on boldly with my work, in spite of the enemy's arrows, many of which struck against the glasses of my spectacles, but without any other effect further than a little to discompose them. I resolutely cut with my knife the cables that fastened the anchors, receiving above two hundred shots in my face and hands; then I took up the knotted end of the cables, to which my hooks were tied, and, with great ease, drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me.

The Blefuscudians, when they perceived the whole fleet moving in order, and saw me pulling at the end, set up such a scream of grief and despair as it is almost impossible to describe or conceive. When I had got out of danger, I stopped awhile to pick out the arrows that stuck in my hands and face: and rubbed on some of the same ointment that was given to me at my first arrival. I then took off my spectacles, and waiting about an hour, till the tide was a little fallen, I waded through the middle with my cargo, and arrived safe at the royal port of Lilliput.

The emperor and his whole court stood on the shore, expecting the issue of this great adventure. They saw the ships move forward in a large half-moon, but could not discern me. The emperor concluded me to be drowned, and that the enemy's fleet was approaching in a hostile manner: but he was soon eased of his fears; for the channel, growing shallower every step I made, I came in a short time within hearing; and holding up the end of the cable, by which the fleet was fastened, I cried in a loud voice, "Long live the most **puissant** emperor of Lilliput!"

This great prince received me at my landing and created me a *nardac* upon the spot, which is the highest title of honor among them.

About three weeks after this exploit, there arrived a solemn embassy from Blefuscu, with humble offers of a peace; which was soon concluded, upon conditions very advantageous to our emperor, wherewith I shall not trouble the reader.

CHAPTER VI.

It was not long before I had an opportunity of doing his majesty - at least as I then thought - a most signal service. I was alarmed at midnight with the cries of many hundred people at my door. Several of the emperor's court, making their way through the crowd, **entreated** me to come immediately to the palace, where her imperial majesty's apartment was on fire, by the carelessness of a maid of honor, who fell asleep while she was reading a romance.

I got up in an instant; and orders being given to clear the way before me, and it being likewise a moonshine night, I made a shift to get to the palace, without trampling on any of the people. I found they had already applied ladders to the walls of the apartment, and were well provided with buckets, but the water was at some distance. These buckets were about the size of a large thimble, and the poor people supplied me with them as fast as they could; but the flame was so violent that they did little good. The case seemed wholly desperate and deplorable, and this magnificent palace would have infallibly burnt down to the ground, if, by a presence of mind unusual to me, I had not suddenly thought of an expedient.

I had, the evening before, drank plentifully of a most delicious wine called GLIMIGRIM, which is very diuretic. The heat I had contracted by coming very near the flames, and by labouring to quench them, made the wine begin to operate by urine; which I voided in such a quantity, and applied so well to the proper places, that in three minutes the fire was wholly extinguished.

It was now daylight, and I returned to my house, without waiting to congratulate with the emperor; because, although I had done a very eminent piece of service, yet I could not tell how his majesty might resent the manner by which I had performed it. And I was privately assured that the empress, conceiving the greatest abhorrence of what I

had done, firmly resolved that the building should never be used again, and, in the presence of her chief confidants, could not forbear vowing revenge.

CHAPTER VII.

THE AUTHOR, BEING INFORMED OF A DESIGN TO ACCUSE HIM OF HIGH TREASON, MAKETH HIS ESCAPE TO BLEFUSCU. HIS RECEPTION THERE.

Before I proceed to give an account of my leaving this kingdom, it may be proper to inform the reader of a private intrigue which had been for two months forming against me.

When I was just preparing to pay my attendance on the emperor of Blefuscu, a considerable person at court (to whom I had been very serviceable, at a time when he lay under the highest displeasure of his imperial majesty) came to my house very privately at night, in a close chair, and without sending his name, desired admittance. He desired I would hear him with patience, in a matter that highly concerned my honor and my life. His speech was to the following effect, for I took notes of it as soon as he left me:

“You are to know, said he, that several committees of council have been lately called in the most private manner on your account; and it is but two days since his majesty came to a full resolution. You should know that a number of His Majesty's ministers have prepared articles of impeachment against you - for treason, and other capital crimes. Out of gratitude for the favors you have done me, I procured information of the whole proceedings, and a copy of the articles; wherein I venture my head for your service:

ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST QUINBUS FLESTRIN, THE MAN-MOUNTAIN.

ARTICLE I: Whereas, by a statute made in the reign of his Imperial Majesty Calin Deffar Plune, it is enacted, that whoever shall make water within the precincts of the royal palace shall be liable to the pains and penalties of high treason. Notwithstanding, the said Quinbus Flestrin, in open breach of the said law, under color of extinguishing the fire kindled in the apartment of his Majesty's most dear imperial consort, did maliciously, and traitorously, and devilishly, by discharge of his urine, put out the said fire kindled in the said apartment.

ARTICLE II: That the said Quinbus Flestrin, having brought the imperial fleet of Blefuscu into the royal port, and being afterwards commanded by his imperial majesty to seize all the other ships of the said empire of Blefuscu, and reduce that empire to a province, to be governed by a viceroy from hence, and to destroy and put to death, not only all the Big-endian exiles, but likewise all the people of that empire who would not immediately forsake the Big-endian heresy. He, the said Flestrin, like a false traitor against his most auspicious, serene, imperial majesty, did petition to be excused from the said service, upon pretence of unwillingness to force the consciences or destroy the liberties and lives of an innocent people.

“There are some other articles, but these are the most important, of which I have read you an abstract.

“In the several debates upon this impeachment, it must be confessed that his majesty gave many marks of his great lenity, often urging the services you had done him, and endeavoring to **extenuate** your crimes. The treasurer and admiral insisted that you should be put to the most painful and ignominious death. The general came into the same opinion; so that for a long time there was a majority against you.

“Upon this incident, Reldresal, principal secretary for private affairs, who always approved himself your true friend, was commanded by the emperor to deliver his opinion, which he accordingly did; and therein justified the good thoughts you have of him. He allowed your crimes to be great, but that still there was room for mercy, the most

commendable virtue in a prince, and for which his majesty was so justly celebrated. He said that his majesty, in consideration of your services, and pursuant to his own merciful disposition, should please to spare your life, and only give orders to put out both your eyes; that the loss of your eyes would be no impediment to your bodily strength, by which you might still be useful to his majesty; that blindness is an addition to courage, by concealing dangers from us; that the fear you had for your eyes was the greatest difficulty in bringing over the enemy's fleet; and it would be sufficient for you to see by the eyes of the ministers, since the greatest princes do no more.

“In three days, your friend the secretary will be directed to come to your house and read before you the articles of impeachment; and then to signify the great lenity and favor of his majesty and council, whereby you are only condemned to the loss of your eyes, which his majesty does not question you will gratefully and humbly submit to; and twenty of his majesty's surgeons will attend, in order to see the operation well performed, by discharging very sharp-pointed arrows into the balls of your eyes as you lie on the ground.

“I leave to your prudence what measures you will take; and, to avoid suspicion, I must immediately return, in as private a manner as I came.”

His lordship did so, and I remained alone, under many doubts and perplexities of mind.

At last I fixed upon a resolution: having his imperial majesty's license to pay my attendance upon the emperor of Blefuscu, I took this opportunity, before the three days were elapsed, to send a letter to my friend the secretary, signifying my resolution of setting out that morning for Blefuscu and, without waiting for an answer, I went to that side of the island where our fleet lay. I seized a large man-of-war, tied a cable to the prow, and lifting up the anchors, I stripped myself, put my clothes into the vessel, and drawing it after me, between wading and swimming arrived at the royal port of Blefuscu, where the people had long expected me.

They lent me two guides to direct me to the capital city, which is of the same name. I held them in my hands until I came within two hundred yards of the gate, and desired them to signify my arrival to one of the secretaries, and let him know I there waited his majesty's command. I had an answer in about an hour, that his majesty, attended by the royal family and the great officers of the court, was coming out to receive me. I advanced a hundred yards. The emperor and his train alighted from their horses, the empress and ladies from their coaches, and I did not perceive they were in any fright or concern. I lay on the ground to kiss his majesty's and the empress's hand.

I told his majesty that I was come, according to my promise to have the honor of seeing so mighty a monarch, and to offer him any service in my power consistent with my duty to my own prince.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE AUTHOR, BY A LUCKY ACCIDENT, FINDS MEANS TO LEAVE BLEFUSCU, AND AFTER SOME DIFFICULTIES, RETURNS SAFE TO HIS NATIVE COUNTRY.

Three days after my arrival, walking out of curiosity to the northeast coast of the island, I observed, about half a **league** off in the sea, somewhat that looked like a boat overturned. I pulled off my shoes and stockings, and wading two or three hundred yards, I found the object to approach nearer by the force of the tide; and then plainly saw it to be a real boat, which I supposed might by some tempest have been driven from a ship.

I shall not trouble the reader with the difficulties I was under, by the help of certain paddles, which cost me ten days making, to get my boat to the royal port of Blefuscu, where a mighty concourse of people appeared upon my arrival, full of wonder at the sight of so prodigious a vessel.

I told the emperor that my good fortune had thrown this boat in my way, to carry me to some place from whence I might return into my native country, and begged his majesty's orders for getting materials to fit it up, together with his license to depart, which, after some kind **expostulations**, he was pleased to grant.

I did very much wonder, in all this time, not to have heard of any **express** relating to me from our emperor to the court of Blefuscu. But I was afterwards given privately to understand that his imperial majesty, never imagining I had the least notice of his **designs**, was at last in pain at my long absence; and, after consulting with the treasurer and the rest of that **cabal**, a person of quality was **despatched** with the copy of the articles against me.

This **envoy** had instructions to represent to the monarch of Blefuscu that I had fled from justice, and, if I did not return in two hours, I should be deprived of my title of *nardac* and declared a traitor. The envoy farther added that his master expected that his brother of Blefuscu would give orders to have me sent back to Lilliput, bound hand and foot, to be punished as a traitor.

The emperor of Blefuscu, having taken three days to consult, returned the answer - consisting of many civilities and excuses. He said that, as for sending me bound, his brother knew it was impossible; that, although I had deprived him of his fleet, yet he owed great obligations to me for many **offices** I had done him in making the peace; that, however, both their majesties would soon be made easy; for I had found a prodigious vessel on the shore, able to carry me on the sea, which he had given order to fit up with my own assistance and direction; and he hoped in a few weeks both empires would be freed from so insupportable an **encumbrance**.

These considerations moved me to hasten my departure somewhat sooner than I intended, to which the **court**, impatient to have me gone, very readily contributed. Five hundred workmen were employed to make two sails to my boat, according to my directions, by quilting thirteen folds of their strongest linen together. I was at the pains of making ropes and cables, by twisting ten, twenty, or thirty of the thickest and strongest of theirs. I was at incredible pains in cutting down some of the largest timber-trees for oars and masts, wherein I was much assisted by his majesty's ship carpenters, who helped me in smoothing them.

And then I departed on my newly found sea vessel that curious world within which I had spent a most singular time. I directed my vessel toward England and home.

I shall not trouble the reader with a particular account of this voyage, which was very prosperous for the most part. I arrived in England on the thirteenth of April, 1702.