

A Breife

DISCOVERY or DESCRIPTION

Of the most Famous Island of

MADAGASCAR or ST. LAURENCE IN ASIA NEARE UNTO EAST-INDIA.

BY RICHARD BOOTHBY, *Merchant.*

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CHAP. II.

[pag. 6]

The Island of Saint Laurence is a gallant place for to have a Magazine or Rendezvouze, for the Coast of Malindia lies off this Island forty or fifty leagues. The Portugals hath a great fortification at Mussambeg therein, and upon these coasts the Portugals get most of their riches and drives all their Trade in India, otherwise it was impossible for them to hold out so long, because of their great losse both by the English and Dutch.

The Portugals drives such a gallant Trade upon this Coast from 26 degrees south latitude to three degrees north latitude, they get great store of Gold, Elephants teeth, Wax, Amber-greece and divers sorts of rich Gums and comodities, which cost the Portugals a very small matter, for they trade with Knives, Bels, Pentathoes, Barbars-aprons, course Calicoes, looking glasses &c. I have beene taking of a Juncke twenty eight yeeres since, which came from this coast of Malindia, laden with Elephants teeth, Amber-greece and rich Gums.

The Portugals comming from Mussambeg [pag. 7] and bound for India, they alwayes touch at the Island of Saint Laurence and there they buy slaves for their plantation. I have beene about seaventeen yeeres since taking of a Junck, which was laiden with slaves of both sexes and Sandall

wood which came from Mussambeg and so to Saint Laurence, and their laden and bound for Goa, as we found by a Portugall passe.

If I may be worthy to advice, after a trade is once settled at Madagascar, what a brave gallant trade may be had upon the coast of Malindia: three or foure smal ships may be imployed al the yeere long, coasting and trading along the coast, from 26 degree south latitude to 3 degrees north latitude, and putting off course Indian commodities may lade your ship with rich Commodities much acceptable and vendable in those parts, so that you need not carry any Mony out of England into India.

CHAP. III.

[pag. 8] ... This said coast of Malindia is neare adjoyning to Madagascar; likewise there is above 1500 Tuns of Wax yeerely which is brought from the coast of Malindia to India, which is in great request, rich Gums and divers sorts of Drugs; also the Portugals bring great store of very fine Gold and Amber-greece from Mussambeg to Goa.

So that all the world may understand what rich Trade the Portugals hath on the coast of Malindia, and hath for this many hundreds of yeares maintained a very strong Garrison at Mussambeg, for there is 100 peecees of Ordnance in their Castle. I am confident the richest and best trade the Portugall hath in Asia cannot parallell this on the coast of Malindia.