# THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL MISCELLANY

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The Bibliographical Miscellany by John Petheram

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## JOHN PETHERAM

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### JOHN PETHERAM.



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## THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL MISCELLANY.

### SOME PARTICULARS OF THE VOYAGE OF SIR THOMAS BUTTON,

POR TERM

#### DISCOVERY OF A NORTH-WEST PASSAGE

TO CHINA, CATHAY, AND JAPAN, A.D. 1812.

[Or the voyage of Sir Thomas Button, Mr. Rundall remarks in his interesting Hakluyt volume, "Narrative of Voyages towards the Northwest," "The proceedings of this voyage are involved in what appears to be needless mystery. Purchas complains he could not obtain any information on the subject; M. Briggs was also kept, to a great degree, in the dark, although he was eminent for his scientific acquirements, deeply interested in the success of the enterprise, and intimately acquainted with the navigator. For what is known respecting the proceedings, thanks are due to the inquisitiveness and industry of Luke Fox, who sought and obtained information from some of the companions of Button, if not from the navigator himself, and also from Sir Thomas Roe, an energetic promoter of the North-west project. The information thus acquired was first printed in Northwest Foxe, A.D. 1635."—Voyagas, stc., p. 81.

A few years ago, Mr. Hanrott appears to have obtained in a copy of Birch's Life of Prince Henry, a manuscript of Prince Henry's Instructions for this voyage, a few copies of which were taken off in facsimile, and from one of these, now in the Grenville Library in the British Museum, Mr. Rundall seems to have printed that which is found in his "Voyages to the North-west." Accidentally turning over the Athenseum for 1834, I found the same Instructions printed in it at page 204, preceded by King James Letter of Credence, which neither appears in the facsimile, nor in Rundall. The editor of the Athenseum, speaking of these manuscripts, says, "Both documents are beautifully written on vellum; the former is richly emblazoned, the latter has the seal and signature of the Prince affixed;" they belonged at that time "to a gentleman who had a rich collection of such treasures," but may we not ask, as they were probably the originals, where are they now?

Knowing no other, I have followed the Athenœum copy of King James' Letter, but Mr. Hanrott's facsimile of the Instructions. A few variations occur between the two; the Athenœum copy dating the Instructions April 1. In paragraph 6, cominations is used for consunctions; in p. 7, the 20 or 30 L. (leagues) is rendered 20° or 30°; in p. 10 after saluages, the words "and other Eastern people," are omitted. The other variations are of no importance.

Of the highly important manuscript document entitled "Motives" &c., now first published, a few particulars will not be out of place. It is in the form of a broadside, dated at the back, anno 1610, and was found attached to a fine copy of Davis' Worldes Hydrographicall Description, 1593, which was sold by Messrs. Sotheby & Co., in December, 1851, for £21, having been purchased by Mr. H. Stevens for the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, and is of course for ever lost to this country. That it had once belonged to the Royal Library I have no doubt, the royal arms being on the vellum covers, though the many years it must have lain in its former resting place precludes all idea of improper acquisition. Want of space precludes my giving further particulars now, but they shall appear on a future occasion.—Ep.]

#### MOTICES

INDUCÍNG A PROJECT FOR THE DISCOURRÍE OF THE NORTH FOLE TERRESTRIALL: THE STREIGHTS OF ANIÁN, INTO THE SOUTH SHA; AND COASTS TREERED.

All those Kingdomes are most complete glorious, and doe best flourish wherevuto in abundance trade and traffique is performed. His Ma<sup>des</sup> Kingdomes being Islandes whose traffique is to be mainteyned by Navigation of strong fortified Shipps, with nomber of able Marriners being otherwise secluded from all comerce with those of the mayne continent from exporting and importing of Marchandize, the furniture of Shipping consisting in many things w<sup>th</sup> England wants, as Masta, Pitch, Tarr, Rosen, and Cordage, w<sup>th</sup> now we enjoy by y\* favor of forraigne Pottentates.

The life of Navigation consisteth in filshermen to begett Shipps and Marriners: in Marchants to breed and mainteyne them: and in Cheiftains to enable and encourage them: otherwise in Island Kingdomes, the Citties, Burrowes, Port Townes, and Havens decay w<sup>th</sup> all the whole people, where trade and traffique to proffit is neglected.

And most notoriously wee finde that trade and traffique with o' neighb\*\* sountryes is in small request, the proffit now seldome answering the Marchants aduenture whereby the poore Excuss Marchants, Artificers, and Laborers can scarce gayne meate to their bellyes, and clothes to their backs so cunningly and disdainefully doe o' neighbo\* contryes reject o' home commodities, to thend to sett their owns people awork and to impoverish o'n.

Wee shalbe of necessitic enforced to seeks out remote partes of y world to vent o' Comodities of the Realmes at a higher rate than now we doe whereby o' people may live by their labo', Shipping may be encreased, and that o' marriners be not enforced for want of entertaynem' to runn dayly into the service of other Nations to be imployed there, either their to serue or at home to starue.

More better it is and honorable for our State to vent or Comodities in Remote Regions where were may have great prizes for them and retourne nedefull Marchandizes at easy rates being had at the first hand; by the same encreasing or Shippes and Marriners to ye good of all and not to be beholding to a bad neighbor or colde frende, from whome we receave nedeless wants for or Staple comodities, importing much more thereof then we expert of or giving or money to boote to the spoile of or land, mightily enriching or foresaide neighbor and greatly impoverishing or selves, as doth manifestly appeare throughout all the Kingdome by the decay thereof.

The people of the North pole terrestriall have but one day in the year. A glorious state and renowned great BRITTATER
would be had the same discovered the North Pole
and passage into ye South Sea, unto the rich contryes of China Cataya and Japon: with the
as and Phillippinas, and many other bordering

Hands of Moluccas and Phillippinas, and many other bordering vpon the same Seas there to sett forth the name of Jesus Christ and preach the gospell of Joy where multitudes of people are not yet called and where plenty and abundance of many rich wares are to be had, at lowe prizes and at the first hand, where all or home Comodities might be vented at a greate rate not only for the good and gaynes of the Gentleman, Marchant, Tradsman, Artificer, and Laborer of all Great Britanne, but also further would encrease Hundreths of Shippes and Thowsands of Marriners making this land the Storehouse to all Europa; a matter of wonderfull greate importance.

Over and aboue within y° same passage doth growe in abundance all those thinges necessary for y° furnishing of Shipping we wee now have out of Polonia and Russia, and there would be provided by the industry of such people as should be appointed therefore without y° favo' of those Pottentates aforesaide.

In the tyme of his Ma<sup>des</sup> Royall Progenitors the worthy Gentry of this land gaue themselues to famous actions and were encouraged thereunto by the gratious favor of his Highnes Progenitor respectively according unto their births estates and deserts and so were