

Subscriber having a good
reasons who have any thing to
business, may have it done at
Smith's Shop in Annapolis.

Patrick Creagh.

BE SOLD,

Tract of Land called
and other Lands adjoining
the Head of Bay River in
containing about Thirteen

LSO,

ing in the said County, near
Creek, called Bond's Gra-
r Hundred Acres.
ble to purchase may know
g to

Philip Thomas.

IMPORTED,

the Subscriber, at his Store
ANNAPOLIS,

OES Rum, Mus-
denia Wine, Lisbon Lemons,
s, Chocolate, English Soal
Cordage of all Sizes, An-
tlers, with Variety of Eu-
is, by Wholesale and Retail,
exchange, or Tobacco, at the

Stephen West.

ose from a Schooner
South River, A Boat about
arrow, deep, and strong built:
ut 2 Miles above the lower
Whoever brings the said
ll have Twenty Shillings Re-

IMPORTED,

HENDERSON, from LONDON,
the Subscriber, at his Store
urch, in ANNAPOLIS,

Variety of European
GOODS, proper for the
Wholesale or Retail, at the
Bills of Exchange, or short

aniel Wolfenbolme.

KEWIS,

rrack, London Porter, White
a Water, Castile Soap, May-

PUBLISHED,

in Folio, very necessary to be
Dealers in TOBACCO)

f Parliament passed
n at Westminster, Entitled,
effectual securing the Duties
be Sold by the Printer here-

in Charles-street;
ENTS of a moderate
Week after for Con-

THE

Numb. 351.

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, January 16, 1752.

*An ACCOUNT of the Anocando,
a monstrous Species of Serpent in
the East-Indies, and the Manner
of it's seizing and managing it's
Prey.*

In a LETTER from an English Gentleman to his
Friend, many Years resident there.

S I R,

I HAVE read, with great Pleasure, the Ac-
counts you have occasionally given me of the
more wonderful Sorts of Animals, and their
Properties, your late Account of the *River-
Horse* I have had the more Pleasure in, as I
have seen many of the Creatures in *Ceylon*, and
find your Account accurate and just. Your late Re-
lation of the Manner of the *Rattle Snake's* charm-
ing it's Prey, gave me no less Satisfaction. These
may seem strange to those, who have seen no Part
of the World but that they were born in; but to
the Traveller they are in a Manner familiar. I
have an Account to give you here, however, to
which all that might appear most strange in your
Relations will seem natural, and such a one as I
know must startle even you: But be assured, Sir,
I shall aggravate no Circumstance, but relate mere-
ly what myself and more than a hundred others
saw, and gazed at for two whole Days together.—
And to cut short my Preface, let me enter upon
the Story.

Some Years since, the Commands of my Direc-
tors carrying me to *Ceylon*, to transact an Affair of
no little Consequence, I had an Apartment pre-
pared for me on the Skirts of the principal Town,
facing the Woods; at some Distance from my Win-
dow there was a rising Ground, on which stood
three or four very large Palm Trees, that afforded
me every Morning as I lay in Bed a delightful Pro-
spect. One Morning, as I was looking at these, I
saw, as I thought, a large Arm of one of them in
strange Commotions, heaving and twisting about,
tho' there was no Wind, and often striking on the
Earth then raising it again, and losing it among the
Leaves. I was gazing at this with great Amaze-
ment, when a *Ceylonese* coming in, I begged him
to look and wonder with me; he look'd, Sir, and
was much more amazed and terrified than I: In
short a Paleness overspread his whole Face, and he
seemed almost sinking to the Earth with Terror.
He conjur'd me to bar up all my Doors; then told
me, that what appeared an Arm of a Tree to me,
was in Reality a Serpent of that monstrous Size,
diverting itself there with it's various Commotions,
and now and then darting down to the Earth for
Prey. I soon found out the Truth of what he told
me, and looking more nearly, saw it seize a small
Animal before me, and take it up into the Tree.
Enquiring after this Miracle, the *Ceylonese* told me,
that the Wonder was only that the Creature was
so near us, for that it was a Serpent but too well
known on the Island; but that it usually kept in
the inland Parts and Woods, where it often drop-
ped down from the Covert of a large Tree, and
devoured a Traveller alive. A Relation so strange
as this could never have gained Credit with me,
but that I plainly saw before my Eyes a Creature,
from it's Size, capable of doing more than was re-
lated. The Monster, Sir, continued diverting
himself, till we assembled a Body of twelve of us,

* An Island of Aga, in the Indian Sea, near the
Cape of Comori, on this Side the River Ganges: It
is 100 Leagues long from N. to S. and 60 broad from
E. to W. The maritime Parts belong to the Dutch,
and the Island is situated between the 6th and 10th
Degrees of North Latitude, and about 97 Degrees
of Longitude East from London. The principal
Town is Canuca.

to go on Horseback well arm'd to destroy him.
We rode up toward the Place in a Body; but, not
to expose ourselves to unnecessary Dangers, we
surrounded the Ground, and rode behind a close
Thicket, from whence we might unseen level our
Fire-Arms at him. It was by this Time the Heat
of the Day; and when we arrived there, we found
him so much larger than we had conceived, that
we all wished ourselves safe at home again; and it
was a long Time before any Body dared fire a
Gun. We had now Time to observe the Creature,
and believe me, Sir, all the Descriptions of Mon-
sters of this Kind, hitherto given, are Trifles to the
Truth of what we saw in him. The *Ceylonese* all
agreed he was much larger than any they had ever
seen; and such a Mixture of Horror and of Beauty
together, no Eye but that which saw it can con-
ceive. The Creature, Sir, was more than as thick
as a slender Man's Waist, yet seemed far from fat,
and very long in Proportion to his Thickness; of-
ten hanging himself by the Tail from the highest
Boughs of the Tree, and reaching the Ground with
his Head. He was surprizingly agile and nimble,
and was now diverting himself in the Heat of the
Day with a thousand Gambols round the Branches
of the Tree, and sometimes would come down and
twist his Tail round the Bottom of the Trunk,
throwing himself to his whole Length all round it.
In the midst of one of these Gambols, we were sur-
prized to see him get up in haste into the Tree;
but the Cause soon appeared; a small Animal of
the Fox Kind, but not like our English Foxes, com-
ing immediately after it, the Serpent had seen
him coming, and took this Way to be prepared
for him. He darted down upon the unwary Cre-
ature from the Tree, and suck'd him in in a few
Minutes, then lick'd his Chops with a broad dou-
ble Tongue of a blackish Colour, and laid himself
at his Ease at Length upon the Ground, but with
his Tail still twisted round the Tree. In this Po-
sure I had Leisure with Horror, yet with Admira-
tion, to behold him. He was covered all over
with Scales like those of a Crocodile, all ridged
up in the middle; his Head was green, with a vast
black Spot in the middle, and yellow Streaks
round the Jaws; he had a yellow Circle like a
golden Collar round his Neck, and behind that a
another great Spot of Black. His Sides were of a
dusky Olive Colour, and his Back more beautiful
than can be well imagined; there ran down the
middle of it a broad Chain of Black, curled and
waved at the Edges; round this there runs all the
Way a narrow one of Flesh Colour, and on the
Outside of that a very broad one of a bright Yel-
low, not straight like a Ribbon, but waved and curl-
ed in various Inflections, and spotted all over at
small Distances with great round and long Blotches
of a perfect Blood Colour; his Head was very flat,
but extremely broad, and his Eyes monstrously
large, and very bright and terrible.

These, Sir, were his Colours as he lay still, but
when he moved about in the Sun he was a thousand
Times more beautiful; the Colours, according to
the several Shades of the Light, presenting the Eye
with a vast Variety of Mixtures, and in many Pla-
ces looking like our changeable Colours in Silk.

We now aimed all our Pieces at him as he lay,
and fired at his Head all at the same Instant; but
whether he accidentally moved just at that Time,
or our Fears made us take bad Sight, or whatever
else might be the Cause, we either missed him or
never hurt him: in short, he took no sort of No-
tice of it, and after a Council of War, we all a-
greed to make no farther Attempt upon him at that
Time, but to go home, and return with a stronger
Party the next Day.

The *Ceylonese* seemed to know the Creature well,
they call it *Anocando*, and talked of eating it's Flesh
when they caught it, as they had no small Hopes
of this; for they say, when one of these Creatures
chooses a Tree for his Dwelling, he seldom quits it
of a long Time. I detained my Company of *Cey-
lonese* to dine with me, and the Afternoon was
spent in relating the amazing Things which one or

other of the Company had seen in this Sort of
Monsters: In short, they told a thousand Things
that far outwent my Credulity; but I am to inform
you, that what we saw the following Day as much
exceeded all they had told me, as what they told
seemed to exceed Truth and Probability. It seems
the constant Custom of this Creature to lay wait
for it's Prey, is by hiding in the Boughs of large
Trees, whence it, unsuspected, drops upon the
wretched Creature, which is seized before it sees
it's Enemy.—But the Instance we saw of this, I
must relate to you at large.

The next Morning, Sir, we assembled to the
Number of more than a hundred at the old Thick-
et, where we had the Pleasure (if I dare call it so)
to find our Enemy still at his old Post; he seemed
very fierce and very hungry this Morning, and we
soon saw the amazing Effects of it. There are
great Plenty of Tygers, you must know, Sir, in
that Country: One of these, of a monstrous Size,
not lower than a common Heifer, as he went a-
long, came at length under our Serpent's Tree;
in a Moment we heard a dreadful Ruffling in the
Tree, and swift as Thought, the Serpent dropp'd
upon him, seizing him across the Back, a little be-
low the Shoulders, with his horrible Mouth and
taking in a Piece of the Back bigger than a Man's
Head; the Creature roared with Agony, and to
our unspeakable Terror, was running with his E-
nemy towards us; his Course however was soon
stopped, for the nimble Adversary winding his Bo-
dy three or four Times round the Body of his Prey,
girted him so violently that he soon fell down in
Agony. The Moment the Serpent had fixed his
Folds, he let go the Back of the Creature, and ri-
nging and twining round his Head, opened it's hor-
rid Mouth to it's full Extent, and seized the whole
Face of the Tyger in it, biting and grinding him
in a most horrid Manner, and at once choking
him and tearing him to Pieces. The Tyger rear-
ed up again on this, and Words are too poor to
paint his seeming Agony; he wreathed and tossed
about, but all in vain; the Enemy wherever he
went was with him, and his hollow Roaring with-
in the Destroyer's Mouth was dreadful beyond Ex-
pression.

I was for firing on the Creature in this State,
but they all declared against it; they told me they
knew his Customs so well, that they were now ve-
ry sure of him without any Trouble or Hazard, if
they let him alone, but if they disturbed him in
this Condition, he would be so outrageous that fe-
veral of our Lives would assuredly pay the Forfeit.
They seemed to know so well what they were a-
bout, that I readily acquiesced. Several of us
spent the whole Day, Sir, in observing this strange
Sight; and surely the Agonies of the Tyger were
beyond all that can be conceived, and his Death
more horrid than a thousand other Deaths with all
their Tortures put together.

The Tyger was a very strong and fierce Cre-
ature, and too unable to hunt or get rid of it's cru-
el Enemy, yet gave him a World of Trouble; a
hundred Times would he rear up and run a little
Way, but soon fell down again, partly oppressed
by the Weight, and partly by the Folds and wrea-
thed Twists of the Serpent round his Body; but
tho' he fell, he was far from being conquered, or
at all manageable. After some Hours, he seemed
much spent, and lay as if dead; and the Serpent,
who had many Times grieved himself violently
round him, attempting to break his Bones, but in
vain, now let go his Hold; and twisting his Tail
only round the Tyger's Neck, who was now in no
Condition either to resist or escape, he made to-
wards the Tree, dragging with some Pain the
Victim after him. Now appeared the double Use
of the Tree to the Creature: Nature it seems in-
forms this Animal, that tho' it can conquer such
large Creatures as these, it can by no Means de-
vour them as they are, since their Bodies are too
thick for his Swallow, and therefore he must break
their Bones, and reduce them to a soft Mass, be-
fore he can manage them. This he usually does,