

gold. Sâgean is unable to say positively with what nation, if it be not the Japonoise, as he believeth, for they transport it very far with caravans, and he hath heard them say after their manner of reckoning, that there was six months' road from them to that nation. He hath seen the starting out of one of these caravans in the time that he was among them, composed of more than 3,000 oxen all loaded with gold upon their backs; this caravan was escorted by a like number of horsemen armed with lances and with arrows and a sort of poignard; they make their trades at lance length, and the nation that they make them withal give them in exchange iron, steel and polished weapons. They have not the usage of writing in our manner. The said Sâgean saith that they give to each of the conductors of the caravans a little piece of bark prepared like paper, whereon is marked the quantity of gold that he is charged withal, and whereof he rendereth account at his return in the same manner as they engrave upon stones, and metals their extraordinary happenings and their epochs.

The King of the Anniba is called Hagaaren, which is to say in their tongue the great King. He hath no war with any nation, howbeit he hath always on foot near a hundred thousand men, as well horse as foot; but the three quarters Cavallerie which are about the city wherein he resideth. His troops have straight trumpets of gold, which they sound full ill, and sorts of drums, or rather of Cymballes likewise of gold covered with skin of a deer whereon they beat with sticks, and this sort of Cymballes are borne by oxen and a man rideth thereon to beat them, their tents are made of leather, or skins of oxen dressed like chamois which they cover with bark of trees, which is soft as cloth, to shield them from the rain. he knoweth not whether they observe any military discipline; he knoweth only that they exercise them one day in the week at shooting at the white with their arrows; the King assisteth at this exercise, and gratifieth them that hit within the white, either with some employment or with one of his wives. The men there are sunburnt, and their visage seemeth hideous and much longer and more narrow than nature, because being infants their mothers press their heads very strongly on both sides with flat pieces of wood.

The women are comely and white there as in Europe. the deformity which they have, and which is common to them and to the men, is the extraordinary bigness of their ears, which is counted a beauty amongst them, and the better to make them grow and lengthen they pierce them and load them with rings of gold and

bones of animals. They wear their nails also very big, and it is not only one of their beauties, but moreover a mark of distinction, and the more lofty is a person's dignity, the longer he hath his nails, even up to the King who is nice herein beyond all others. They let likewise the hair grow upon their faces and upon their stomachs, and the shaggiest are esteemed the most beautiful.

Polygamy is a usage among them, and every man taketh as many wives as he will. They trouble themselves little with the behavior of the maids and young boys provided they be not engaged beforehand by their fathers and mothers while they are little which is usual enough, but for the maids thus promised, and married women, it toucheth their lives and that of their gallants if they abandon themselves unknown to their husbands or their betrothed. These people are great lovers of pleasure, they are great dancers and great eaters, and they keep no measure or order in their meals, but passing sober as for drinking, they make wine of palms and sundry other drinks of Roots, and of herbs; they are great smokers, and the Tabacq is good there, and very common coming without cultivation. They received perfectly the French which were the first Europeans they had seen, in the space of five months that they remained among them, they were always entertained by them, insomuch that they lacked nothing, either useful or agreeable; it was even forbidden the maids to refuse them anything, on pain of their lives, and six of them were poniarded upon complaints which the said Frenchman made, being drunken with palm wine, that they had refused him the land is fertile in Europe (? le pays est fœcond en Europe.) The King made every effort to retain them in his service, he sought even to give to the said Sâgean one of his daughters aged fourteen years in marriage and told him at his departure that he would keep her for him, having made him promise to return, and as the Frenchmen had each one a fusee, and ammunition, and fearing lest the King, or some other of the nation, should take a desire to have one of them, they made a mystery of them, telling them that they were familiar spirits of theirs that would slay any other that should approach them, even as they slew the birds and the beasts, when they commanded them thereunto, and to make the thing more mysterious to them they were observant never to charge them before them, and they remained in a wondrous amazement at the sight of the effect of the said weapons, and had so great fear of them that they durst not approach

them, and betokened no desire to have any.

That country is very temperate, being never too hot nor too cold, and the natives live there unto an extreme old age, without being subject to any sickness. During the stay of the French in that country, they saw none sick, neither any die save from age or decay.

That land is abundant in all sorts of fruits both of Europe and of India, apples, pears, peaches, clingstones, figs, almonds, nuts, chestnuts, cherries, mulberries, hazelnuts, gooseberries, strawberries, blackberries, melons of all sorts, pumpkins, squashes, potatoes, oranges, sour and sweet lemons, very great olives, bananas, grapes much bigger than in Europe, there is also Indian corn and wild oats as white and as good as rice, they make bread of both without cultivating save the Indian corn; verdure reigns here all the year, and all the year fruit is gathered, and the woods and the plains which are the fairest that can be seen, are filled with all sorts of beasts and birds, particularly with Oxen, greater than those of Europe, they tame them and make use of them to bear burdens, and for the caravans; there is an animal called pittion, smaller in fact than ordinary oxen; he is plump and round, having his legs short, his feet cleft like an ox, he hath no horns, and hath the ears very long and pendant, the tail like that of the sheep, and in place of hair he is covered with a kind of black wool, very fine and curly like negroes' hair, the women spin it very neatly and make garments and sheets therewithal. His flesh is delicious, like unto that of the sheep. The rivers are mightily stocked with fish, and the woods are full of turkeys, pigeons, common and guinea fowls, bustards, ducks, swans, teal, and all of an extraordinary bigness, they make use of a snare to take them. There are great numbers of parroquets, there are also certain animals of extraordinary figures, and apes.

These people live in wondrous concord and intelligence, howbeit they have scarce any other Justice than that which they deal among themselves, notwithstanding they have a kind of pillory, wherein seditious evil-doers are exposed.

The capital city of the Acaniba, where the King maketh his residence, is about six leagues from the river, which they call Milly in the tongue of the country, signifying river of gold or east northwest.

The French only obtained the King's permission to depart upon the promise which he exacted of them by heaven, which is their usual oath, that they would return at the end of thirty-six moons and that they would bring coral,