

S U P P L E M E N T

TO THE THIRD EDITION OF THE

*ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA,*

OR, A

D I C T I O N A R Y

OF

*ARTS, SCIENCES,*

AND

MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

Illustrated with Fifty Copperplates.

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By GEORGE GLEIG, LL. D. F. R. S. EDIN.

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NON IGNORO, QUÆ BONA SINT, FIERI MELIORA POSSE DOCTRINA, ET QUÆ NON OPTIMA,  
ALIQUO MODO ACUI TAMEN, ET CORRIGI POSSE.—CICERO.

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Prison  
||  
Pruning.

stay in Venice, granted to one man, who had been 'from the cheerful ways of man cut off' thirteen years.

"Before he left his dungeon I had some conversation with him; this was six days previous to his execution. His transport at the prospect of death was surprising. He longed for the happy moment. No saint ever exhibited more fervour in anticipating the joys of a future state, than this man did at the thoughts of being released from life, during the four days mockery of his trial.

"It is in the Canal' Orfano where vessels from Turkey and the Levant perform quarantine. This place is the watery grave of many who have committed political or personal offences against the state or senate, and of many who have committed no offences at all. They are carried out of the city in the middle of the night, tied up in a sack with a large stone fastened to it, and thrown into the water. Fishermen are prohibited, on forfeiture of their lives, against fishing in this district. The pretence is the plague. This is the secret history of people being lost in Venice.

"The government, with age, grew feeble; was afraid of the discussion of legal process and of public executions; and navigated this rotten Bucentaur of the Adriatic by spies, prisons, assassination, and the Canal' Orfano."

This is indeed a frightful narrative, and, we doubt not, true as well as frightful; but when, from the state of the Venetian prisons, the author insinuates, that Howard was not actuated by genuine benevolence, and infers, or wishes his reader to infer, that the proposal of that celebrated philanthropist for substituting solitary confinement, in many cases, for capital punishment, must have resulted from his not taking into consideration the *mind* of the criminal—the insinuation, to say the least of it, is ungenerous, and the conclusion is at war with the premises. That there was something romantic and superfluous in Howard's wanderings, we readily admit; but it seems impossible to doubt of the reality of his benevolence; and though the horrid prison of Venice, into which, as the Doctor assures us, Mr Howard never entered, was calculated to injure the body without improving the mind of the criminal, it does not follow but that solitary confinement, under such regulations as at Philadelphia, is the best means that have yet been thought of for obtaining the object nearest Howard's heart, the reformation of the morals of the criminal.

PROCYON, in astronomy, a fixed star of the second magnitude, in Canis Minor, or the Little Dog.

PROSTHAPHERESIS, in astronomy, the difference between the true and mean motion, or between the true and mean place, of a planet, or between the true and equated anomaly; called also *equation of the orbit*, or *equation of the centre*, or simply the *equation*; and it is equal to the angle formed at the planet, and subtended by the eccentricity of its orbit.

PROTRACTING, or PROTRACTION, in surveying, the act of plotting or laying down the dimensions taken in the field, by means of a protractor, &c. Protracting makes one part of surveying.

PROTRACTING-PIN, a fine pointed pin or needle, fitted into a handle, used to prick off degrees and minutes from the limb of the protractor.

PRUNING. Under this title (*Encycl.*) it is ob-

served, that when large branches of trees bearing stone-fruit are taken off, the trees are subject to gum and decay. For this a remedy has been invented by *Thomas Ship Dyot Bucknall, Esq;* of Conduit-street, which, notwithstanding many objections made to it at first, experience has proved to be successful, and for the discovery of which the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. voted the silver medal to the discoverer. It is as follows:

Cut every branch which should be taken away close to the place of its separation from the trunk; smooth it well with a knife; and then with a painter's brush smear the wound over with what Mr Bucknall calls *medicated tar*. This medicated tar is composed of one quarter of an ounce of corrosive sublimate, reduced to fine powder by beating with a wooden hammer, and then put into a three-pint earthen pipkin, with about a glass full of gin or other spirit, stirred well together, and the sublimate thus dissolved. The pipkin is then filled by degrees with vegetable or common tar, and constantly stirred, till the mixture be blended together as intimately as possible; and this quantity will at any time be sufficient for two hundred trees. To prevent danger, let the corrosive sublimate be mixed with the tar as quickly as possible after it is purchased; for, being of a very poisonous nature to all animals, it should not be suffered to lie about a house, for fear of mischief to some part of the family.

By the application of this composition, Mr Bucknall can, without the smallest danger, use the pruning hook on all kinds of trees much more freely than we have recommended its use in the article referred to. "I give no attention (says he) to fruit-branches, and wood-branches; but beg, once for all, that no branch shall ever be shortened, unless for the figure of the tree, and then constantly taken off close to the separation, by which means the wound soon heals. The more the range of the branches shoots circularly, a little inclining upwards, the more equally will the sap be distributed, and the better will the tree bear; for, from that circumstance, the sap is more evenly impelled to every part. Do not let the ranges of branches be too near each other; for remember all the fruit and the leaves should have their full share of the sun; and where it suits let the middle of the tree be free from wood, so that no branch shall ever cross another, but all the extreme ends point outwards."

PULO, the name of several islands of Asia, in the Indian Ocean; the principal of which alone, according to Dr Brooke's, is inhabited. This is the island

*Pulo-Condore*, which, being visited by Lord Macartney as he sailed to China, is thus described by Sir George Staunton. "It has the advantage of convenient anchoring places in either monsoon. The Squadron accordingly stopped on the 17th of May, in a spacious bay on the eastern side of the island; and came to anchor at the entrance of its southern extremity, as the water shoaled there to five fathoms and a half, occasioned by a bank which stretches across two-thirds of the entrance. It was found afterwards, that beyond the bank there is a safe passage to the inner part of the bay, the north of which is sheltered by a small island lying to the eastward. The whole of the bay is formed by four small islands, which approach so nearly to each other, as to appear, from several points, to join

Pulo.

They all seem to be the rude fragments of primitive mountains, separated from the great continent in the lapse of time. The principal island is eleven or twelve miles in length, and about three in breadth. It is in the form of a crescent, and consists of a ridge of peaked hills. Its latitude, as calculated from a meridional observation, is  $8^{\circ} 40'$  north from the equator; and its longitude, according to a good chronometer, is  $105^{\circ} 55'$  east from Greenwich.

"The English had a settlement on Condore until the beginning of the present century, when some Malay soldiers in their pay, in resentment for some unjustifiable treatment, murdered their superiors, with the exception of a very few who escaped off the island, where no Europeans have since resided. At the bottom of the bay was a village situated close to a fine sandy beach, with a long range of cocoa-nut trees before it, and it was defended from the north-east sea by a reef of coral rocks, within which was good anchorage for small vessels, and an easy landing for boats. A party went on shore from Lord Macartney's squadron, with the precaution, however, of being armed, as large canoes were espied within the reef, which might have been Malay pirates. Several of the inhabitants came to the beach, and with the appearance of much urbanity of manners welcomed them on shore, and conducted them to the house of their chief. It was a neat bamboo cabin, larger than the rest. The floor was elevated a few feet above the ground, and strewed with mats, on which were assembled as many men as the place could hold. It was apparently on the occasion of some festival, or pleasurable meeting. There was in one of the apartments an altar decorated with images, and the partitions hung with figures of monstrous deities; but the countenances and deportment of the people conveyed no idea of religious awe, and no person was seen in the posture of prayer or adoration. A few spears stood against the wall with their points downwards, together with some matchlocks and a swivel gun. The dress of those people was composed chiefly of blue cotton worn loosely about them; and their flat faces and little eyes denoted a Chinese origin or relation. Several long slips of paper, hanging from the ceiling, were covered with columns of Chinese writing. One of the missionaries, who was of the party, could not, however, in any degree, understand their conversation; but when the words were written, they instantly became intelligible to him. Though their colloquial language was altogether different from what is spoken in China, yet the characters were all Chinese; and the fact was clearly ascertained on this occasion, that those characters have an equal advantage with Arabic numbers, of which the figures convey the same meaning wherever known; whereas the letters of other languages denote not things, but elementary sounds, which combined variously together, form words, or more complicated sounds, conveying different ideas in different languages, though the form of their alphabet be the same.

"The inhabitants of Pulo Condore were, it seems, Cochin-Chinese, with their descendants, who fled from their own country, in consequence of their attachment to one of its sovereigns, dethroned by several of his own subjects. It was proposed to purchase provisions here; and the people promised to have the specified quantity ready, if possible, the next day, when it was

intended, if the weather should be favourable, to land the invalids. The next morning was fair in the beginning; and a party of pleasure was made from the Hindostan to a small island close to Pulo Condore. They were scarcely arrived upon it when the weather began to lower; and the boat set off on its return, in order to reach the ship before the impending storm should begin.

"With difficulty it reached the ship; and as soon as the weather became fair, messengers were dispatched on shore to receive and pay for the provisions promised. When they arrived at the village, they were astonished to find it abandoned. The houses were left open, and none of the effects, except some arms, that had on the first visit been perceived within them, or even of the poultry feeding about the doors, were taken away. In the principal cabin a paper was found, in the Chinese language, of which the literal translation purported, as nearly as it could be made, that 'the people of the island were few in number, and very poor, yet honest, and incapable of doing mischief; but felt much terror at the arrival of such great ships and powerful persons; especially as not being able to satisfy their wants in regard to the quantity of cattle and other provisions, of which the poor inhabitants of Pulo Condore had scarcely any to supply, and consequently could not give the expected satisfaction. They therefore, through dread and apprehension, resolved to fly to preserve their lives. That they supplicate the great people to have pity on them; that they left all they had behind them, and only requested that their cabins might not be burnt; and conclude by prostrating themselves to the great people a hundred times.'

"The writers of this letter had probably received ill-treatment from other strangers. It was determined that they should not continue to think ill of all who came to visit them. On their return they were perhaps as much surprised to find their houses still entire, as their visitors had been who found they were deserted. Nothing was disturbed; and a small present, likely to be acceptable to the chief, was left for him in the principal dwelling, with a Chinese letter, signifying that 'the ships and people were English, who called merely for refreshment, and on fair terms of purchase, without any ill intention; being a civilized nation, endowed with principles of humanity, which did not allow them to plunder or injure others who happened to be weaker or fewer than themselves.'

*Pulo Lingen*, another of this cluster, is likewise a considerable island, remarkable for a mountain in its centre, terminating in a fork like Parnassus; but to which the unpoetical seamen bestow the name of *asses ears*. Every day presented new islands to the view, displaying a vast variety in form, size, and colour. Some isolated, and some collected in clusters. Many were clothed with verdure; some had tall trees growing on them; others were mere rocks, the resort of innumerable birds, and whitened with their dung.

PUNCTUATION, in grammar, is an art with which we have said, in the *Encyclopædia*, that the ancients were entirely unacquainted. Candour obliges us to confess that this was said rashly. A learned writer, in the *Monthly Magazine* for September 1798, who subscribes J. WARBURTON, has proved, we think completely, that the art is not wholly modern; and we

Pulo,  
Punctua-  
tion.