



The History of the Buccaneers of America: Containing Detailed Accounts of Those Bold and Daring Freebooters; Chiefly Along the Spanish Main, in the ... the Civil Wars in England (Classic Reprint)

By A. O. Exquemelin

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Excerpt from *The History of the Buccaneers of America: Containing Detailed Accounts of Those Bold and Daring Freebooters; Chiefly Along the Spanish Main, in the West Indies, and in the Great South Sea, Succeeding the Civil Wars in England*

It would be superfluous to say much by way of Preface to the following work, since a great part of it has some years ago been exposed to public view with a general applause; and indeed the wondrous actions and daring adventures therein related, are such as could not but transport the most stupid minds into an admiration of them, though many times they were not attended with that justice and regularity that becomes civilized men, or men of any pretensions to morality; but because we have here gathered up all that ever has been written in any language upon the subject of buccaneering, and that in a successive order down to the present time, (1700,) it will be necessary to enumerate the particulars thereof for the better information and satisfaction of the reader.

First, then, we have all the expeditions and exploits of the buccaneers of Jamaica and Tortuga, both English and French, set forth at large; and more especially what was transacted under the conduct of Sir Henry Morgan, by sacking of Puerto Velo, burning of Panama, &c., in the West Indies, written originally in the Dutch tongue; whereunto there are added the no less bold attempts and performances of men of the same stamp under the command of Captains Sharp, Sawkins, Coxon, and others, on the coasts of the South Seas; the whole being intermixed with vast variety of adventures and discoveries, and written by Mr. Basil Ringrose, who kept a journal of the said voyage, as being personally, present at all the transactions, and is said by Mr. Dampier to be very exact.

But let nobody be surprised that he doth not find both these relations printed

verbatim, as in the former edition has been done, since the matter is much improved; for whereas the style before was loose and uncouth in divers parts thereof, the same is now rectified, and made more correct, throughout the whole body of it, which cannot but add a new life and relish thereunto.

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