

LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

ROBINSON CRUSOE.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.



YORK :

Printed by J. KENDREW, Colliergate.

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OF YORK,
MARINER.

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Roman Capital and Small Letters.

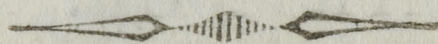
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THE
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ROBINSON CRUSOE.

WITH permission, reader, I will relate to you the particulars of my life, and as but few persons, I fancy, ever experienced more difficulties, it will probably be in my power to entertain you.

I was born in the year 1632, at York ; my father, Mr. Crusoe, having acquired a very considerable fortune as a merchant, chose that city to

spend the residue of his life comfortably in ; but alas, how imperfect is worldly happiness ! when we fancy ourselves at the very eve of possession, up starts an unexpected something which embitters the whole ; for, good soul, he had, with the highest reputation to himself, surmounted all the difficulties in trade. Happy to see me growing up promisingly, when on a sudden all over was spread the most horrible gloominess ; he discovered my resolution of going to sea. One morning he called me into his chamber, and with tears in his eyes, expostulated with me very freely on the subject, “ What can possess thee, my child,” said he, “ for wishing to leave thy native kingdom ? Depend on it, travel where you will, by land

or by water, never will you put foot into any country where the blessings of life are more generously disposed among all ranks of people, and their lives and liberties more preserved ; or into a climate more adapted to thy constitution, than is enjoyed in the very country you live so unhappily in, and which you now acknowledge to me you have resolved upon leaving. If the advice of a father," said he, "is in your opinion worth following, by all means banish from your mind such a foolish scheme ; you must be laughed at for it by the whole world, as a lad wanting capacity ; nay, yourself must confess the idea preposterous ; such a resolution is madness in you, which possibly might be prudence in another lad, for

instance, was you the son of a poor man, and had got into bad company, wherein your character had suffered, in that instance the resolution of going into strange countries, with the intention of retrieving your character and fortune would be commendable: but as you are by my industry, placed above the probability of want, and I am convinced you are as much respected by your acquaintance as ever boy was, what can possess thee to think of leaving such happiness; and take my word child, if you persist in the resolution, *It will bring you many an aching heart,*" which words I had too much reason to remember.

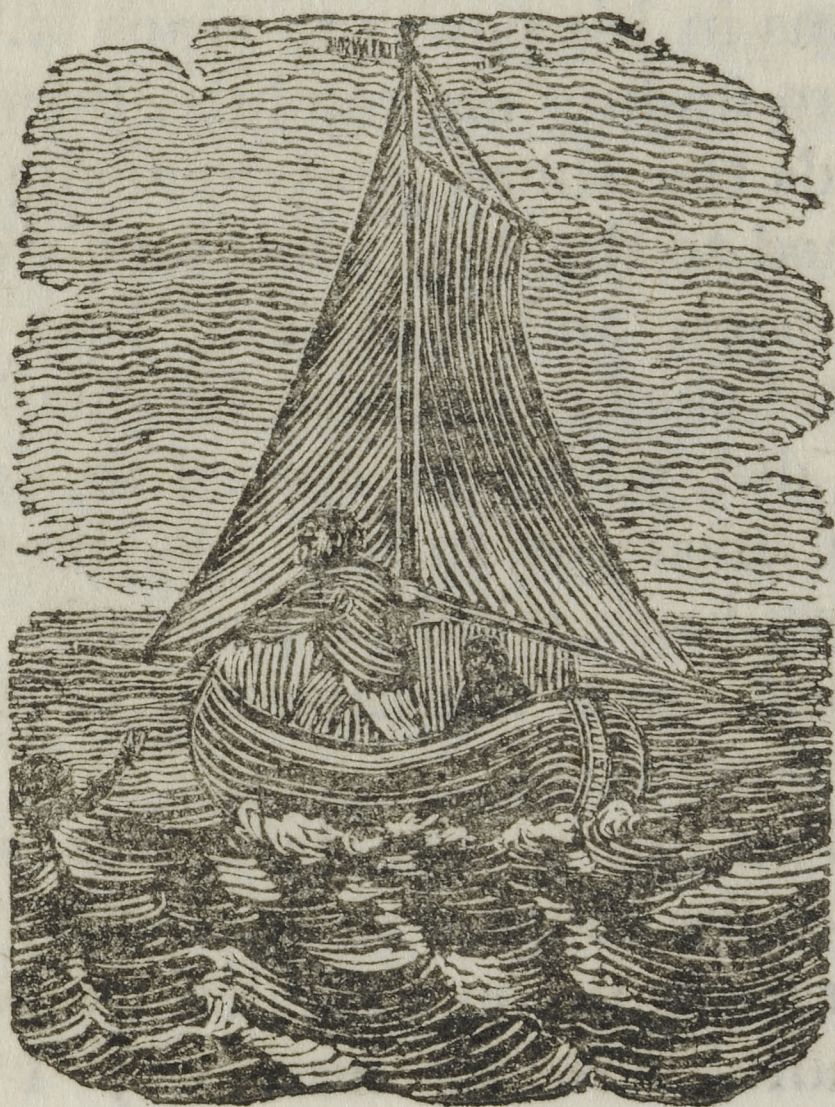
However I was obstinate, and the first ship that sailed from Hull, carried me to London. I was then about

nineteen years of age, and being with some captains, I said in conversation, it was my desire to see the world; one of them answered, he would take me with him passage free, if I chose to go his voyage, which was to Guinea; I readily accepted this offer, and in about seven days the ship sailed. We had very boisterous weather from the time we left the Downs, and at last was taken prisoner by a Moorish Rover, who carried us into Sallee; the cruelty I experienced in this country made me resolve to attempt an escape the first opportunity, but it was full three years before I had the least chance of effecting it.

About that time, our governor coming into the cells one morning, said, he wanted some fish for a grand

entertainment, and if either of the European slaves understood the art of fishing, he should have the liberty of going with the negro and his boy in a pinnace ; now, as it was always my favourite diversion, I answered, if he would suffer me to go, I had no doubt of bringing home double the quantity of fish he wanted. He consented, and while the negro and his lad were getting the boat ready, I was busy in carrying in provision, thinking this no bad opportunity for me to escape. The boat was presently got ready, away she sailed, and at the distance of two leagues from the shore, the old negro prepared to fish, and stooping over the side of the pinnace to place the net properly, I suddenly took hold of his legs and threw him head-

long into the sea ; then taking up one of the muskets (which were always kept loaded in the boat) I levelled it at his head, and I vowed, that unless



he immediately turned round and swam towards the shore, (for he was attempting to get into the boat again) I would blow his brains out, and as he was an excellent swimmer, I knew it was in his power to reach it. The negro finding me resolute, turned towards the shore, and immediately I turned to the boy who was steering the boat, and told him, that if he would obey my orders, he should fare as I did, which he agreed to, and we now stood out to sea. As there was a very brisk wind, I presently found myself out of the Emperor of Morocco's dominions.

Next day as the boat was sailing under the shore of some country I was a stranger to, on a sudden we heard a dreadful howling near us; I must

confess I was much frightened, but more so on seeing a monstrous beast dash himself into the water and swim towards us; when he was within about ten yards of the boat, I levelled my gun at his head and fired, which must I think very near have killed him, as he was a considerable time in returning to the shore.

The negro boy advised me to turn the boat and follow him, but as we had so providentially escaped being devoured, I thought it not proper to run into more danger than was necessary, so I ordered him to keep his course, and directly loaded my gun again, for there was plenty of ammunition in the boat: we now felt the want of nothing but fresh water, and that article we were horridly distress-

ed for. I was exceedingly pleased with the lad, for he cheerfully offered to go on shore with a great pitcher, and try to find some, but by no means would I suffer that, till he had made the boat fast and I was ready to go along with my two guns; we travelled full a mile up the country, and at last was fortunate enough to find an excellent spring; we were filling the pitcher, when on a sudden the lad cried, *see, Masser, see*, I turned round, and at about fifty yards distance, under the shade of a hill, sat the greatest lion my eyes ever beheld, just on the point of darting at us; my guns I had laid on the grass, but instantly snatched up the nearest, fired, and found I had wounded him. It was lucky I had two guns with me,

else I had never lived to relate these strange adventures, for, instead of the lion running away, after I had wounded him, he jumped from his cave in the greatest anger, towards us, and I had but just time to level the second gun which despatched him.



I was very thankful to God for my wonderful escape, and having found what we came on shore for, intended to make the utmost haste to the boat,

but the lad pointing to the lion's coat and to my body, put it into my head to skin him, which we did in two hours, and got safe on board the boat. I found the skin, when dry, exceeding warm and comfortable, it lasted me many years, indeed, in the moment I am writing these adventures, part of that very lion's skin, my waistcoat is made of. We now kept sailing on, quite ignorant where we were going to, till the most dreadful storm surrounded us, surely, which ever man beheld: in a few minutes the sky turned black as night, though half an hour before the sun told me it was noon, the sea rolled mountains high, every instant we expected to be our last; one moment we were lifted at the top of a wave five times higher

than St. Paul's, and the next plunged as low. At last the poor boy, quite exhausted with fatigue, was washed overboard and lost. I was too much agitated myself to admit a thought respecting him, for in a few minutes afterwards the boat went to the bottom. The first thing I recollect was lying on the shore, and seeing the water roll towards me and taking me about a mile into the sea; another took me out to sea again; in this manner was I suspended between life and death, till a very large wave driving into shore, carried me so far on the sands, that the next did not reach me, and the storm abating, there was I left, till by degrees I recovered the use of my reason, and the first act I applied it to, was to thank

God my life was saved, and in a case wherein there was some minutes before scarce any room to hope.

Though I had so wonderfully escaped the dangers of the ocean, I now had the fear of wild beasts before me, a proof this life is intended only as a life of trouble, for I am fully persuaded, none living, let their fortunes, friends, health, &c. be ever so extensive and valuable, can truly assert they are now perfectly happy.

When I had recovered strength to rise, I walked into the country and had got about three miles from the sea, without seeing any thing but goats, hares, and an immense number of wild fowls, when reaching a very high hill, I had there the opportunity of viewing the country. I found it

to be an island about ten miles long, five miles broad, and very woody; a hundred gloomy ideas presented themselves at this instant, I began to fancy providence preserved me from the dangers of the water, only to torture me with a more cruel and tedious death; but this reflection I was angry at, so I jumped from the ground, and with a thought full of industry, said, God has done such wonderful kindnesses for me, it is infamous and ungrateful in me to complain; here are fowls, goats, and hares in abundance, and it is strange if I cannot hunt for food; all I have to pray for is, that it is not inhabited by wild creatures that will devour me, which, thank God, was not the case.

No human creature but myself was

on the island, or any offensive animal to molest me. On this island I lived fifteen years, subsisting the whole time on milk (for I had caught some young goats and brought them up tame) and what fowls I caught in the woods by laying springs and traps in the night, and with the assistance of some fire arms which I saved from the wreck of a vessel soon after my being cast on shore.

One day about noon going into the woods after some of my bird-traps, I thought I should have sunk into the ground through fear, every joint of me trembled at the sight, it was the print of a man's foot, Good God! O! what did I see, I was confident it was not the mark of my own, for besides it being a deal larger, I had not been in that part for a month, and

that print was quite fresh, I ran like lightning to my home, which was a kind of cave overgrown with trees, and threw myself down on a parcel of dry leaves, which for some years had served me as a bed, there I lay three days and nights, without a morsel of food or sleep, so distressed was I at discovering there was on the island more human creatures than myself, who I feared would murder me; hunger at last obliged me to look for food, and surely never poor creature ventured out of his hiding place with so much fearfulness as I did out of my cave.

I was terrified at every leaf that moved, but having no farther reason to fancy my fears well grounded, I concluded the mark was from my

own foot, so was tolerably easy ; but soon afterwards I was thoroughly convinced of the contrary, for ranging through the woods as was my usual custom, for food, I discovered, one day, five canoes full of savages, within half a league of the shore, and making to it as fast as they possibly could. I secreted myself near enough to discover what they were about, and found the canoes landed all the Indians, but two of them were chained together, who cried piteously ; they presently made a large fire, cut the throat of one of the two, broiled his flesh on the fire, and eat it: never did I behold a sight that filled me with horror equal to this, however shocked as I was, prudence kept me quiet. When they had eat as much of the

poor creature as they chose, they were preparing to despatch the other, but just as they had unbound him, and going to give the finishing stroke, by the greatest agility I ever beheld, he slipped under their arms, and ran into the woods; he made towards the place where I lay concealed, and on that account I was alarmed for my own safety; three of the savages I saw follow him, and I knew nothing but a stout resistance on my part could be of service, I presented my loaded piece which I had then with me, and prepared to receive them; presently the savage who was to have been roasted, came running quite out of breath, he was ready to die at the sight of me, thinking he had only run from one danger to another, so

endeavoured to avoid me, but that I prevented; he then fell on the ground, and taking hold of one of my feet, put his head to the earth and my foot upon it, which I considered as a token



of his wish to be my servant; it turned out so, and a more faithful, diligent fellow never lived; his pursuers soon gave him up, and returned to their own country.

Ever since I left England, every day I have made a notch in a piece of wood, to act as my almanack, by that means I was informed, even in this melancholy island, which was the Sabbath, and most part of that day, on my knees I spent in prayer. This wooden almanack now told me it was Friday the savages came, so having no other name at hand, I christened him *Friday*. I soon taught him to understand me, and as he was an industrious fellow, I now lived with less trouble than before I had him, for he easily killed game enough for us

both. In this state five years passed without having another visit from the barbarians ; at that time we discovered several canoes making towards our shore, Friday said he was sure they were on the same business again, so I ordered him to fetch my two fowling pieces from my cave, and said, "now Friday, will you stand by me and help me to prevent these horrid savages from accomplishing their cruel purpose." He quickly answered, "*Yes indeed Masser, yes indeed Masser, we will, we will.*" As I knew the man to be honest, I could depend upon him, so I resolved to do all in my power to prevent the scene they were going to exhibit. When Friday returned, the savages were got out of their canoes, so I found no time was

to be lost; away we ran, each having an excellent fowling piece and placed ourselves behind a very large tree, entirely unseen, and at the distance, of about fifty yards; five prisoners were chained, and eight savages pulling them out of the canoes, and placing them in a row. I saw the fire kindling, "now," said I, "Friday do your best and discharge your piece as soon as I have fired mine." We fired, and reloaded; in less than five minutes six of the wretches lay dead upon the sands, and the other two leaping into the sea, no doubt were drowned. I then turned to the five poor souls who stood trembling, and expecting me to serve them as I had the others; but presently I convinced them of my friendship. I now thought

poor Friday was really distracted, till I learned his joy was occasioned by the sight of his father, who was one of the five we happily saved.



The other four were Spaniards, all prisoners taken in war a few days before, by the savage nation, and their practice was to eat all those who fell into their hands.

We were now seven in number, and very fortunately an English merchant ship, homeward bound, was by contrary winds drove near our island; we made a large fire in the woods one night to convince the crew of the ship the island was inhabited; next morning twenty sailors came on shore well armed, we soon convinced them of our friendship, and treated them with the best the island produced; in return they generously took us on board to Liverpool, from thence I went to York, but was greatly shocked at the news I received; my rambling

disposition, I found, had brought my dear father and mother to their graves, they both died soon after I left Hull.

I cannot express the agony it causes in me; I consider myself as the author of their deaths; and though property sufficient is left for me to live like a gentleman, I cannot have peace to enjoy it; and at this moment I really believe myself the most miserable object living, and heartily I repent giving way to that restless disposition which made me leave my parents, as from that hour I date all the subsequent misfortunes of my life.

THE END.

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