

**JOURNAL OF VOYAGES TO MARGUARITTA,
TRINIDAD, & MATURIN: WITH THE AUTHOR'S
TRAVELS ACROSS THE
PLAINS OF THE LLANEROS, TO ANGUSTURA,
AND SUBSEQUENT DESCENT OF THE
ORINOCO, IN THE YEARS 1819 & 1820**

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Journal of Voyages to Margaritta, Trinidad, & Maturin: With the Author's Travels Across the Plains of the Llaneros, to Angustura, and Subsequent Descent of the Orinoco, in the Years 1819 & 1820 by W. J. Adam

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W. J. ADAM

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1819 & 1820;

COMPRISING HIS SEVERAL INTERVIEWS WITH

BOLIVAR,
THE SUPREME CHIEF:

SKETCHES OF THE VARIOUS NATIVE AND EUROPEAN GENERALS:

And a variety of characteristic Anecdotes,

HERETO UNPUBLISHED.

William Jackson
BY CAPTAIN W. J. ADAM, S. A. S.

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Preface.

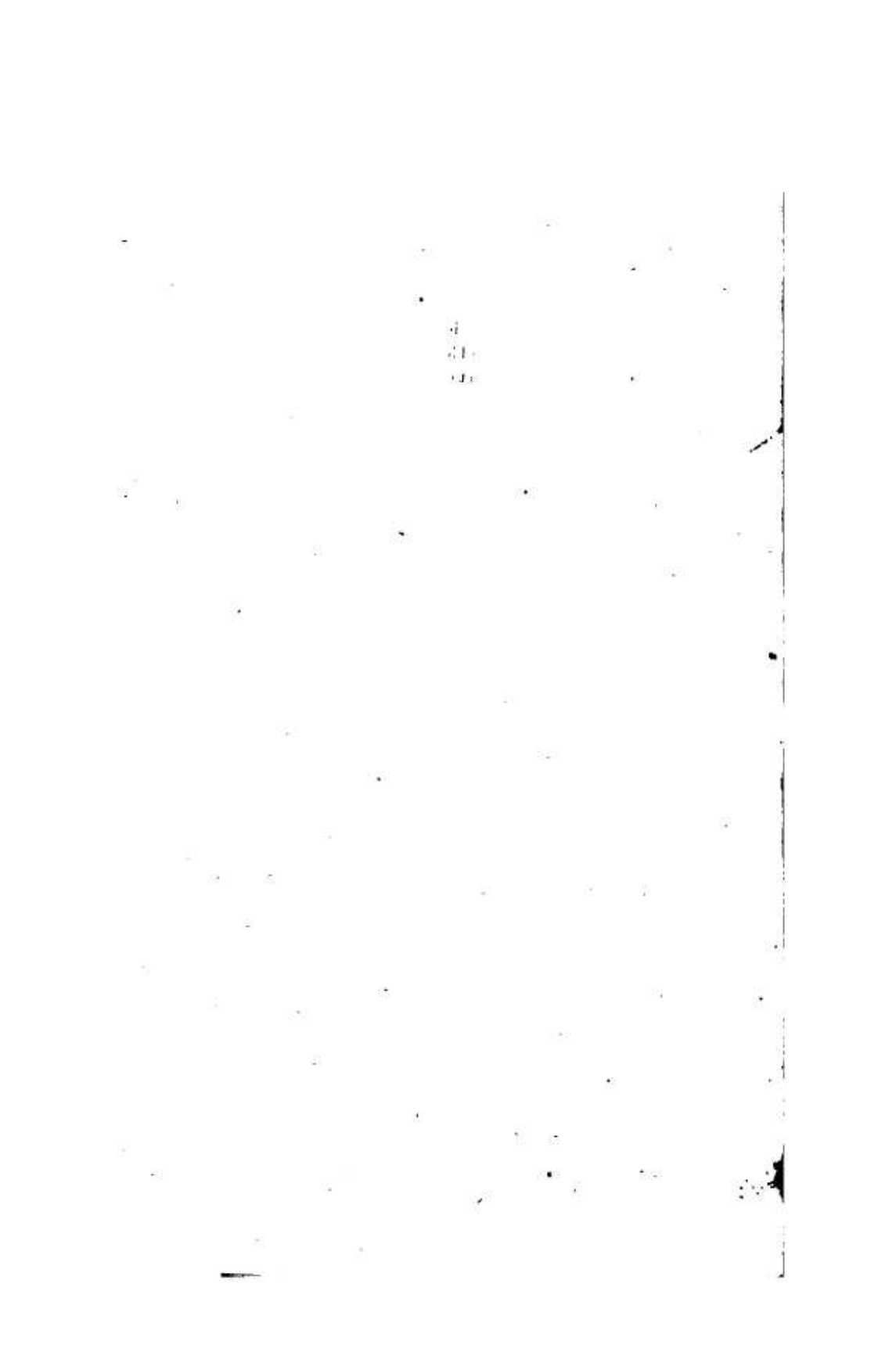
A CONSIDERABLE time has now elapsed since General DEVEREUX first landed in Ireland, for the purpose of raising an Irish Legion to aid the South Americans in throwing off the Spanish yoke, and proclaiming their independence. Numerous individuals, whether from a love of honor, or as a mere matter of speculative interest, enrolled themselves around the standard of liberty; and not a few, nay the greater number of those feather-bed soldiers, who sought to arrive at the summit of honor and fortune, without any of the difficulties which necessarily accompany such a warfare, finding the path difficult and arduous, returned, amid hardship and beggary, to their native soil; without being able, duly to appreciate those exertions, or compass those rewards which were in store for the persevering. Many reports have, of course, been circulated by those *heroes*, by which their desertion from the cause of liberty might be rendered plausible and praiseworthy—reports which have not only tended to bring disgrace upon the promulgators of *their disgrace*, but to bring into discredit that noble cause in which, on the first going off, they were so eager; but the difficulties and dangers of which they had not sufficient courage to withstand. I am not, nor do I wish to be, the advocate of any man or set of men, by whom they may have conceived themselves to be hoodwinked or cozened; nor do I, in the slightest possible degree, wish to arraign the motives by which any person was induced to desert the South American banner, or deprecate the measures of those to whom they had entrusted the first fruits of

their honorable career—far be it from me; I speak of what I know, and testify that I have seen: I have shared in their sufferings, and returned unrewarded—but of the causes which led to my return, *they* will appear in the course of my Journal. A plain and simple narrative of the events to which I was an eye and ear-witness, is all that I pretend to; and whether labouring under mental or bodily agony, or enjoying the progress of liberty, under the command of the indefatigable Bolivar, each event shall be faithfully recorded. Attached to no party, I am not the advocate of any, and shall, therefore, confine myself to those facts which I have witnessed, and which, it is almost unnecessary for me to say, will be fully vouched for by the united testimonies of such as have persevered in the cause, in which they embarked, and from which they are, in all likelihood, about to reap a golden harvest.

It may be asked by some—why the publication of my Journal has been so long delayed? To this I answer—that upon my return from Columbia, party spirit, at least so far as the South American cause was concerned, ran amazingly high; and a prodigious portion of unfounded abuse and calumny was poured forth against General Devereux, by those who had returned from Margaritta; I then, through the medium of the public press, exerted my feeble efforts, to stem the torrent of invective, and disabuse the public feeling, as to the powers of the General; and, *from my own knowledge*, speak of the authority with which he was invested by Bolivar. The Journal, which I had constantly kept, was not sufficiently detailed to refute the various and unfounded calumnies which, at that period, were superabundant: its publication was, therefore, delayed, until the smoothing hand of time had levelled the asperities which misfortune had raised; or, until some one, who had equal opportunities, and greater competency, would undertake the task. I also feel, even at this distant period, that I have a sacred duty to perform to the relatives of some of my comrades, who, less fortunate than myself, have sunk under the accumulated miseries of fatigue, want, and their concomitant attendant, disease:—Miseries which are inseparable from a warfare similar to that

on the South American continent, and to which every adventurer, with the smallest share of penetration, must have looked forward, as the precursors of those advantages and honors, to which he aimed, as the reward of his toil. If, in pursuance of my object, I shall remove one blot from the character of the praiseworthy patriot, or satisfactorily detail the fate of an unfortunate companion, whose body rests on a distant sod, but whose memory still lives in the bosom of his friends, the ends I have in view, in the publication of my Journal, will be fully attained.

W. J. A.



JOURNAL, &c.

IN the month of July, 1819, I became attached to the 2d Division of the Regiment of Lancers, which General DEVEREUX was raising in Ireland, in support of South American independence; and immediately afterwards sailed from *Dublin*, on board the *Hannah*, under the command of Colonel *Aylmer*. This division consisted of 75 officers, and about a similar number of non-commissioned officers and privates; the officers, for the most part, were young and inexperienced, which was the cause of considerable discord and dispute upon the passage outwards. The ship's stores were not only scanty in quantity, but of a very inferior quality: the only allowance, for men and officers, being Rice or Oatmeal Porridge and Molasses for Breakfast, and Pork or bad Beef and Black Biscuit for Dinner, with an allowance of *two quarts* of water per diem each,

a privation which was the more acutely felt as we approached the torrid zone: During the early part of our voyage the bad quality of the provisions was in some degree unknown to the officers, as each had provided himself with a private store, which, however, was soon exhausted.

Light breezes, throughout which a small boat might have ridden in safety, gradually wafted us to our destined port, while the time passed in uninteresting tranquillity, save when disturbed by the quarreling of my youthful companions, or less savage amusements of Shark and Dolphin Fishing, which we exercised to satiety. About 5 o'clock in the morning of the 24th of September, a cry of "Land, Land," from an officer on the quarter deck, made us, one and all, shake off our slumbers, and hasten to gaze upon the gladsome sight; a short time soon convinced us of its reality. A light breeze having sprung up, about 1 o'clock we were off the island of *Tobago*, presenting to our view as we passed, in a southerly direction, a rich, elevated country, agreeably diversified with cottages, villages, plantations, and extensive tracks of fertile, well cultivated soil. Passing *Tobago*, a few hours brought us within view of *Trinidad*, bold and majestic as it rose from the ocean; such was our distance, that the outline was only perceptible, and we were unable to discern any thing of the actual appearance of the island. The sight of land, however, of any description, gave a new impetus to our spirits,