

Town, so I could not get much from him about *Portulacca Arbor*⁶⁰. He had a lot of beautiful plants and insects for sale at a price of 4 dlr 16./⁶¹ each. But then one has to buy it all, good and bad. I have got quite another impression of the Garden [the old Company's Garden] than I had before. It is large, but now there are mostly cabbage and other vegetables on all quarters, except only the two which are under the governor's [see footnote 59] windows. There were some beautiful *Gnaphalia*⁶² of which you will have received specimens through the agency of Captain Ekeberg. I have not had time to ascend the Tafelberg. But here at Bayo Falso the mountains seem to be of the very height [sic!], or at least they are steeper." SPARRMAN has observed both at medium height and higher up the mountains such marks as only sea-water can have left. He will make researches into this. (N.B. LINNAEUS was always interested in the traces of "the diminishing of the sea"). SPARRMAN has forwarded LINNAEUS'S letter to KÖNIG⁶³ in Tranquebar⁶⁴. A French officer from Mauritius has offered him to write to COMMERSON⁶⁵, a French botanist there. If he gets anything from him, it will be for LINNAEUS. SPARRMAN has sent him a small specimen of Trumpet-grass⁶⁶ with root, but this cannot reach Sweden before August of next year (1773), as it has to go to China first with the Swedish ship *Stockholms Slott* (Castle of Stockholm). A list of 52 dried plants was sent with this letter.

THIRD LETTER.

Caffriae in Baij Falso 23 May 1772.

In this letter SPARRMAN gives some further information about the influence of sea-water on the mountains, and shells found high up, as proof of the diminishing of the sea-level.

⁶⁰ The plant meant here is *Portulacaria afra*, Jacq., the "Spekboom" (Portulacaceae), an attractive shrub or small tree with fleshy stems and fresh green fleshy leaves which are flat and roundish. Its flowers are small and of a rosy colour. It is a native of the Karroo and the eastern Cape districts.

⁶¹ 4 Riksdaler (Rixdollars) and 16 öre. See part 1 of our paper, this Journal, April, 1957, p. 59, footnote 26. We do not know whether the old Swedish Riksdaler could be compared with the Dutch Rijksdaalder which now equals a little over 5 shillings. But in any case it seems to us that AUGE charged quite a good price for his plants and insects.

⁶² *Helichrysum* spp. (Comp.)

⁶³ We have not any records about KÖNIG, but we may well assume that he was a merchant and perhaps a representative of the Swedish East-India Company.

⁶⁴ A town in India, in the Tanjore district of Madras, on the sea-coast.

⁶⁵ PH. COMMERSON (1727—1773), who was also a physician, accompanied L. A. DE BOUGAINVILLE on part of his voyage round the world (1766—1769), and collected over 25,000 plants. In 1768 he stayed behind on Mauritius, whence he visited Madagascar in 1770 and Réunion (called Bourbon at the time) in 1771. In the latter year he returned to Mauritius where he stayed until his death. From Mauritius he sent many plants to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.

⁶⁶ This is *Ecklonia maxima*, (Osbeck) Papenfuss (syn. *E. buccinalis*), a very common sea-weed and one of the larger thalloid forms. It is now known under the common name of sea-bamboo.