

FOURTH LETTER.

“Baij Falso ad Cap. B. Sp. d. 12. Junii 1772.”

SPARRMAN has now the opportunity of sending the enclosed descriptions and also a parcel of dried plants. He hopes that the plants and insects which he sent a month ago will have arrived safely. It is difficult to find anything of interest because he is so much occupied with half a dozen of children (the Resident's!). He complains of too much social intercourse; people come on a visit from the ships. His patron and his own herbarium have to move very often. Then the latter is more or less spoilt. The Cape would require several years' full-time work of a botanist. The Swedish East-India Company has promised free passage for one. If LINNAEUS would further the proposal, the King (Gustaf III) would certainly give a subvention. SPARRMAN would not be afraid to go to the Kaffirs, etc.—Further he has a request which may be reproduced here in his own words, viz.: “If there is a new genus of plants among those sent to you, I would ask it to be called after Capt. Ekeberg as *causa principalis*⁶⁷ to my voyage.”—After this SPARRMAN writes that he has asked THUNBERG to answer LINNAEUS'S question about *Portulaca Arborescens*⁶⁸ and *Sagittarius*⁶⁹, as the latter lives in the Town and knows the language.

FIFTH LETTER.

“Baij Fals. d. 22 Julii 1772.”

This is the fourth letter since he came out. They had to be sent with different people, dependent on their care. This one is being sent with Lieutenant DURHAM, to be forwarded through his friends in London. This gentleman is going to Bengal. He is a little at home in Medicine and Materia Medica. Then he writes: “We made an excursion together and found some shells on the mountains; he accepted my idea that they prove the Sea to have been higher before. Now it is winter here, but as yet there is no snow.” SPARRMAN had formerly said that all snakes hibernate, but now he is not quite sure about it. The rest of this letter may be reproduced here in his own words. “Is the *Simia*⁷⁰ of which the description is included a new one?? Mr. Gandelot⁷¹, mentioned as its owner, has promised to send a plant from Mauritius, the root of which is similar to *Ipecacuanha*⁷², and which is used for the same purpose in a double dose. We shall see if it

⁶⁷ The primary cause.

⁶⁸ *Portulacaria afra*, Jacq. (see footnote 60).

⁶⁹ The identity of this plant we cannot even guess.

⁷⁰ One of the old world monkeys.

⁷¹ We cannot trace this name.

⁷² *Ipecacuanha* root is used in medicine as an emetic. It comes from *Cephaelis Ipecacuanha*, a Brazilian plant of a trailing habit, belonging to the Rubiaceae.