

is a *Viola*, n.b. if we receive a specimen. My letters went 1) through the agency of Viljam Villson, London, Commissioner of the Swed. East-India Company; 2) through the agency of Director Malm of Gothenburg [of the E. I. Company] with the "Granville", Capt. Burnett Abercromby—the "opperstyrman"⁷³ took the letter and a parcel of plants and insects; 3) with the "Norths"[?], Capt. Hemli[?]. A passenger took this last letter and should give it to the Swedish envoy in London, von Noleken. I have written before that I wish a plant to be named Ekebergia and to be described in the Act. Holmensibus [the Transactions of the Academy of Science at Stockholm]. As ships are sailing [literally: going—transl.] from England also in April, I hope to receive your answer next year. Please let my mother know when you are writing, and let a little letter from her follow."

SIXTH LETTER.

"Caput Bonae Spei d. 21 Novembris 1772."

SPARRMAN starts this letter by saying: "When this arrives you already have received one parcel with plants, a case with insects and a bottle containing animals in spirit." After this he complains of his poor opportunities of botanizing, owing to his being a school master and living in winter by the dry cliffs of Bay Falso, and in spring among the *Ericeta*⁷⁴ or barren fields outside town.—He has had an eight days' leave which he spent making an excursion with a Hottentot as a guide. As he has now got some idea of the African landscape, he understands what the clever Dr. THUNBERG will be able to do on a five months' journey. THUNBERG had asked SPARRMAN to convey his compliments to LINNAEUS (literally: sent his compliments through Sp.'s intermediary) before he set out on his journey, and promised to send specimens of the produce of this country (in the first place plants, we presume) at his return. There are many collectors busy beside. "Therefore", he writes, "I found that I could accept with a good conscience Mr. Forster's offer to go with the British ships to the South and round the world." Further he tells about arrangements on board, facilities and books for reference, etc.⁷⁵—SPARRMAN knows that FORSTER intends to send LINNAEUS his plants, but he thinks it may be useful that there is a Swede on board. When back at the Cape (from his voyage towards the South Pole, etc.) he expects to be so well trained that he will be able to do in one year what he would not be able to

⁷³ Chief mate.

⁷⁴ *Ericeta* (pl. of *ericetum*), heath-lands. Here at the Cape a vegetation mainly consisting of *Erica* spp.; in Northern Europe large surfaces are covered with the common heather (*ling*), *Calluna vulgaris*, (L.) Salisb.—SPARRMAN refers here to the country round Alphen.

⁷⁵ cf. SPARRMAN'S letter to THUNBERG of November, 1772.