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Travels into several remote nations of the world

in 4 pt.

Swift, Jonathan

London, 1726

Chap. IV. The Country described. A Proposal for correcting modern Maps. The King's Palace, and some account of the Metropolis. The Author's way of travelling. The chief Temple described.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-48497](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-48497)



CHAP. IV.

The Country described. A Proposal for correcting modern Maps. The King's Palace, and some Account of the Metropolis. The Author's way of travelling. The chief Temple described.



NO W intend to give the Reader a short Description of this Country, as far as I travelled in it, which was not above two thousand Miles round *Lorbrulgrud* the Metropolis. For, the Queen, whom I always attended, never went further when she accompanied the King in his Progresses, and there staid till his Majesty returned from viewing his Frontiers. The whole Extent of this Prince's Dominions reacheth about six thousand Miles in length, and from three to five in breadth. From whence I cannot but conclude that our Geographers of *Europe* are in a great Error, by supposing

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nothing but Sea between *Japan* and *California*; for it was ever my Opinion, that there must be a Balance of Earth to counterpoise the great Continent of *Tartary*; and therefore they ought to correct their Maps and Charts, by joining this vast tract of Land to the North-west Parts of *America*, wherein I shall be ready to lend them my Assistance,

THE Kingdom is a Peninsula, terminated to the North-east by a ridge of Mountains thirty Miles high, which are altogether impassable by reason of the Volcanoes upon the tops. Neither do the most Learned know what sort of Mortals inhabit beyond those Mountains, or whether they be inhabited at all. On the three other sides it is bounded by the Ocean. There is not one Seaport in the whole Kingdom, and those Parts of the Coasts into which the Rivers issue are so full of pointed Rocks, and the Sea generally so rough, that there is no venturing with the smallest of their Boats,

Boats, so that these People are wholly excluded from any Commerce with the rest of the World. But the large Rivers are full of Vessels, and abound with excellent Fish, for they seldom get any from the Sea, because the Sea-fish are of the same size with those in *Europe*, and consequently not worth catching: whereby it is manifest, that Nature in the Production of Plants and Animals of so extraordinary a Bulk is wholly confined to this Continent, of which I leave the Reasons to be determined by Philosophers. However, now and then they take a Whale that happens to be dashed against the Rocks, which the common People feed on heartily. These Whales I have known so large that a Man could hardly carry one upon his Shoulders; and sometimes for Curiosity they are brought in hampers to *Lorbrulgrud*: I saw one of them in a Dish at the King's Table, which passed for a Rarity, but I did not observe he was fond of it; for I think indeed the Bigness disgusted him, al-

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though I have seen one somewhat larger in *Greenland*.

THE Country is well inhabited, for it contains fifty one Cities, near an hundred walled Towns, and a great number of Villages. To satisfy my curious Reader, it may be sufficient to describe *Lorbrulgrud*. This City stands upon almost two equal Parts on each side the River that passes through. It contains above eighty thousand Houses, and about six hundred thousand Inhabitants. It is in length three *Glonglungs* (which make about fifty four English Miles) and two and a half in breadth, as I measured it my self in the Royal Map made by the King's Order, which was laid on the ground on purpose for me, and extended an hundred feet; I paced the Diameter and Circumference several times barefoot, and computing by the Scale, measured it pretty exactly.

THE King's Palace is no regular Edifice,

fice, but an heap of Buildings about seven Miles round: The chief Rooms are generally two hundred and forty foot high, and broad and long in proportion. A Coach was allowed to *Glumdalclitch* and me, wherein her Governess frequently took her out to see the Town, or go among the Shops; and was always of the Party, carried in my Box; although the Girl at my own Desire would often take me out, and hold me in her Hand, that I might more conveniently view the Houses and the People, as we passed along the Streets. I reckoned our Coach to be about a Square of *Westminster-Hall*, but not altogether so high; however, I cannot be very exact. One day the Governess ordered our Coachman to stop at several Shops, where the Beggars, watching their Opportunity, crouded to the sides of the Coach, and gave me the most horrible Spectacles that ever an *English* Eye beheld. There was a Woman with a Cancer in her Breast, swelled to a monstrous size, full of Holes,

in two or three of which I could have easily crept, and covered my whole Body. There was a Fellow with a Wen in his Neck, larger than five Woolpacks, and another with a couple of wooden Legs, each about twenty foot high. But, the most hateful Sight of all was the Lice crawling on their Cloaths. I could see distinctly the Limbs of these Vermin with my naked Eye, much better than those of an *European* Louse through a Microscope, and their Snouts with which they rooted like Swine. They were the first I had ever beheld, and I should have been curious enough to dissect one of them, if I had proper Instruments (which I unluckily left behind me in the Ship) although indeed the Sight was so nauseous, that it perfectly turned my Stomach.

BESIDE the large Box in which I was usually carried, the Queen ordered a smaller one to be made for me, of about twelve foot square, and ten high, for the Convenience of Travelling, because the
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other was somewhat too large for *Glumdalclitch's* Lap, and cumbersome in the Coach; it was made by the same Artist, whom I directed in the whole Contrivance. This travelling Closet was an exact Square with a Window in the middle of three of the Squares, and each Window was latticed with Iron Wire on the outside, to prevent Accidents in long Journeys. On the fourth side, which had a Window, two strong Staples were fixed, through which the Person that carried me, when I had a mind to be on Horseback, put in a Leathern Belt, and buckled it about his Waste. This was always the Office of some grave trusty Servant in whom I could confide, whether I attended the King and Queen in their Progresses, or were disposed to see the Gardens, or pay a visit to some great Lady or Minister of State in the Court, when *Glumdalclitch* happened to be out of Order: For I soon began to be known and esteemed among the greatest Officers, I suppose more upon Account of their Majesty's

Majesty's Favour than any merit of my own. In Journies, when I was weary of the Coach, a Servant on horseback would buckle my Box, and place it on a Cushion before him; and there I had a full Prospect of the Country on three sides from my three Windows. I had in this Closet a Field-Bed and a Hammock hung from the Cieling, two Chairs and a Table, neatly screwed to the Floor, to prevent being tossed about by the Agitation of the Horse or the Coach. And having been long used to Sea-Voyages, those motions, although sometimes very violent, did not much discompose me.

WHENEVER I had a mind to see the Town, it was always in my Travelling-Closet, which *Glumdalclitch* held in her Lap in a kind of open Sedan, after the Fashion of the Country, born by four Men, and attended by two others in the Queen's Livery. The People who had often heard of me, were very curious to croud about the Sedan, and the Girl was com-
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plaisant enough to make the Bearers stop, and to take me in her Hand that I might be more conveniently seen.

I WAS very desirous to see the chief Temple, and particularly the Tower belonging to it, which is reckoned the highest in the Kingdom. Accordingly one day my Nurse carried me thither, but I may truly say I came back disappointed; for, the height is not above three thousand foot, and reckoning from the ground to the highest Pinnacle top; which allowing for the difference between the size of those People, and us in *Europe*, is no great matter for admiration, nor at all equal in proportion, (if I rightly remember) to *Salisbury* Steeple. But, not to detract from a Nation to which during my Life I shall acknowledge my self extremely obliged, it must be allowed that what ever this famous Tower wants in Height is amply made up in Beauty and Strength. For the Walls are near an hundred foot thick, built of hewn Stone, whereof

whereof each is about forty foot square, and adorned on all sides with Statues of Gods and Emperors cut in Marble larger than the Life, placed in their several Niches. I measured a little Finger which had fallen down from one of these Statues, and lay unperceived among some Rubbish, and found it exactly four foot and an Inch in length. *Glumdalclitch* wrapped it up in a Handkerchief; and carried it home in her Pocket to keep among other Trinkets, of which the Girl was very fond, as Children at her Age usually are.

THE King's Kitchen is indeed a noble Building, vaulted at top, and about six hundred foot high. The great Oven is not so wide by ten Paces as the Cupola at *St. Paul's*: For I measured the latter on purpose after my Return. But if I should describe the Kitchen-grate, the prodigious Pots and Kettles, the joints of Meat turning on the Spits, with many other Particulars, perhaps I should be
hardly

hardly believed; at least a severe Critick would be apt to think I enlarged a little, as Travellers are often suspected to do. To avoid which censure, I fear I have run too much into the other extream; and that if this Treatise should happen to be translated into the Language of *Brobdingnag*, (which is the general name of that Kingdom) and transmitted thither, the King and his People would have reason to complain that I had done them an Injury by a false and diminutive Representation.

His Majesty seldom keeps above six hundred Horses in his Stables: They are generally from fifty four to sixty foot high. But when he goes abroad on solemn days, he is attended for State by a Militia Guard of five hundred Horse, which indeed I thought was the most splendid Sight that could be ever beheld, till I saw part of his Army in Battalia, whereof I shall find another occasion to speak.