

*Editorial note:*

I noted a reference to this article at p. 285 of Vol. 1, of Percy, A. Scholes, *The Great Doctor Burney*, 1948. It occurs in Chapter XXXVII, 'The Sailor Son', where Scholes discussed the activities of James Burney, who took part in Captain Cook's explorations.

PUTAVARI, in *Biography*, a native of Otaheite, brought into France by the circumnavigator Bougainville : of whom a gentleman, who had resided a considerable time in Italy, and was an excellent judge of music, assured us that the effects of French music, when fairly tried upon him immediately on his arrival, were not those of rapture, but ridicule. He danced to it, indeed, as we would to a marked measure beat on a drum or a table ; for as soon as he returned from the great opera, whither he was carried, he mimicked what he had heard and seen in the most natural and ridiculous manner possible ; giving the company a specimen of the French opera, which was the most admirable parody imaginable of French singing, or rather of the screams and howlings at the Académie Royale de la Musique in the in the time of Louis XV. Our friend wished to try the effects of Italian music upon this demi-savage native of Otaheite; but there was no opportunity, for how could it be properly executed at Paris : However, according to the late lord marshal, the experiment had been fairly made on another occasion.

A young Greek lady being brought from her own country to Paris, some years since, was, soon after her arrival in that city, carried to the opera by some French ladies, supposing, as she had never heard cultivated music, that she would be in raptures at it; but, contrary to those expectations, she declared that the singing only reminded her of the hideous howlings of the Calmuc Tartars, and as to the machinery, which it was thought would afford her great amusement, she proclaimed her dislike of many parts of it, and was particularly shocked by what she called the impious and wicked imitation of God's thunder. Soon after this experiment she went to Venice, where another trial was made on her unprejudiced ears, at an Italian opera, in which, the famous Gizziello sung, at whose performance she was quite dissolved in pleasure, and was ever after passionately fond of Italian music.