

in Marcus

After spending a very agreeable winter with my friends, I left home with the intention of seeking my fortune in another voyage at sea - I had a letter of introduction from Esqr. P. to Mr. Russel at Boston - with whom, and a Mr. Moore who were fitting out a couple of vessels for the Cape of Good Hope - he had a few days before had some conversation respecting

On my arrival at Boston I waited upon Mr. Russel with this address; he accordingly introduced me to Mr. Moore, who was himself, to embark in one of the fore-mentioned vessels - ~~Mr. Moore told me~~
This gentleman ~~told me~~ treated me very politely, he told me if I had an inclination for this voyage, he would do ^{every thing} in his power to accomodate

that there was a second mate's berth
on board each of the vessels, and if I were
round to Newbury port where they were fitting
out, I might depend upon filling that station
in one of them - This berth on board a good
vessel, considering the little I had seen to
sea, was as much as I could reasonably ex-
pect, and as business is at present, especially
in the navigation, ^{may} way is at a very low ebb.
I thought myself happy in getting this -
Accordingly, after spending a few agreeable
days in Boston, I put myself and child on
board a sloop and came round to Newbury.
Here I found the vessels, two Briggs almost
ready to sail - one of them had already
procured a second mate, a young fellow with
whom I had been acquainted formerly -
Mr. Moore introduced me to the Master of
the other, a pretty man, and an excellent

super fellow, and I entered on board -
The first mate of the other Briggs was also
an old acquaintance, we had before been ship-
mates - the first mate of the Vespell I was
to go in, I likewise found to be a very fine
young fellow, and we spent our time together
very agreeably, till Newbury before we sailed, as
the officers of both vessels boarded at the same
house, and formed a sociable circle -

This indicates the year to be 1787 (Apr 1787)

On Friday the 6th of April we were ready
to sail, and the wind proving favourable, we loos'd
our fore topsails hoisted our colors, and about one
o'clock P.M. cast off from the wharf, and dropt
down the river - the other Briggs called the
Nathaniel, Captain Brown, Master, on board
of which was Mr. Moore, was in company -
about two o'clock we got over the bar, and
with a fine breeze, West South West, stood out
to sea -

the 7th and 8th we had pleasant weather —
but the next the wind began to freshen —
and before the morning of the tenth it
was a pretty severe gale — however
as the wind came from the right
quarter, we spun away before it, and were
happy to think we were making so
rapid a progress in our voyage —

This gale continued several days not
withstanding which, by the help of light
in the night, and some times, firing
a gun — we still kept company with
Captain Brown —

After the gale abated we had but
one or two days pleasant before another storm arose
but this still hastened us on our voyage as the
wind was from the Western quarter the whole time
— We were now got into the Latitude of
30. North and as far Eastward as 37.
Longitude, and began to have very

fine weather — but a head wind —

As we had not a sufficiency of water
for so long a ~~passage~~ passage as we might
reasonably expect, it was our intentions to
steer to the Eastward ~~and~~ until we should
be in the Longitude of the Cape de Verde
Islands, and then touch at St. Jago's to sup-
ply ourselves with this necessary article —
We had now a constant course of head winds
until the 10th of May — during which time
however, the weather was very pleasant

As we had frequently experienced a con-
siderable difference, between our Latitude by
account and that found by our Observation,
we judged that we had ~~been~~ ~~in~~ ~~an~~ ~~error~~
different currents which might have
put us out of our reckoning, and of
course prevent us from hitting the
Islands, were we to steer the ~~usual~~
course which we supposed they bore from
us — Therefore to go on a sure plan

and to correct our reckoning in case it should be wrong we concluded to steer to the South and East untill we saw the coast of Africa, when we might then shape a course and bare down for St. Jago with out any diffidence of finding it - Accordingly we kept on to the Eastward and on the morning of the 15th saw the land a head - we immediately bore about to stretch off - but ~~as~~ ~~soon~~ ~~as~~ ~~we~~ ~~reached~~ ~~the~~ ~~point~~ ~~we~~ ~~now~~ ~~are~~, but a few leagues to the Northward of Senegal, a confident, able, of a settlement on this coast, Mr. Moore concluded that if we could get a supply of water there it would be better than to be obliged to go so far westward again as St. Jago - We now hauled our wind again and stood along the coast, which appeared to be nothing but sand with a few ^{small} shrubs of bushes scatter up and down the beach -

The weather was now every warm we being as far Southward as 47° North Latitude and the wind which came off the shore in flaws, after passing over these burning sands, had collected the heat to such a degree, that it was like the air from the floor of a hot oven - We could see numbers of Camels on the shore, but none of the human species - There was a ~~great~~ ^{great} number of Sharks around us, and we caught one very large ~~Shark~~ ^{Shark}, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~size~~ ^{size} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~largest~~ ^{largest} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~kind~~ ^{kind} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~ever~~ ^{ever} ~~met~~ ^{met} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~sea~~ ^{sea} ~~before~~ ^{before} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~came~~ ^{came} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~coast~~ ^{coast} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~Senegal~~ ^{Senegal} - in Latitude 15° 55' - Here we lay till the morning of the 17th, when no signs of any person coming from the Shoar, induced us to believe we were not in the proper road and there being no cove or opening that we could perceive into which we

might go with a boat, ~~but without~~
so that if we attempted to land it
must be on a beach, which lay open
to the whole ocean and on which
broke a surf that threatened destruc-
tion to whoever approached it. We then
saw very naturally concluded there must
be some other anchoring place; with a
view to seek which we weighed ~~anchor~~
and proceeded along the coast about
three leagues and again came to off
the mouth of the river, where was lying
a large French frigate and Brigg-trading
for slaves - two boats immediately
came on board, in one of which was
the pilot of the harbour; but we did
not require his assistance now as
we expected our stay here would be

short we had concluded not to go into
the river, but wait without and have
whatever we, ^{were} necessitated for, bro't off
to us, ~~and we were the more~~ and should
we have gone in, there was a dangerous
bar to pass, which made the risk, to great
to hazard when we could as well avoid
it by riding without.

After we had brought to Mr Moor
dispatched, Captain Vickers, the Master
of our Brigg, and Mr Downe, the chief
mate of the other, to the town which
was now up the river about three leagues
the same way from whence we came
this morning, but inside the beach
- They went to acquaint the command-
-er of the garrison, with our design in
touching here, and to desire the priv-
ilege of recruiting our water.

about six feet high, and the houses before described, are all with in this wall -

On our Landing we were conducted before ~~the~~ the Commandant of the garrison and our business, and the reason of our coming to this place inquired into - We told him that we were on a voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, and that falling in upon this Coast we had touched here with an intention to water - he seemed to doubt of our story and I told rather freely us to be on some smuggling design - However as the Governor, who resides at Goree, an Island about seventeen leagues farther down the Coast, was expected here the next day he gave us the liberty of the town for the night, and on his Excellency's arrival, would lay the matter before him - We were then dismissed and a servant conducted us to the house

of a Mr Paul, a gentleman who came from on board the French ship with us, and who knowing we were perfect strangers in this place, had given us a very polite invitation to take lodgings with him -

Mr Paul is a Gentleman who has resided in this Country seventeen years in the course of which time he has accumulated a handsome fortune, being but a mere adventurer when he left Europe and now he is surrounded by a numerous retinue of slaves, and lives in elegance -

The next day we dined with a Mr Trauconnet, a former factor at this place and in the afternoon, Mr Moore had audience with the Governor, who had arrived that morning, ^{the evening} and when he returned in the ~~the~~ evening he surprised me with the amount of his having

Sold both our cargoes, and that we were to discharge here and return immediately to Boston — The Garrison here it seems were in search for flour, and as we had a considerable quantity of this article on board each of our vessels; the Governor made a purchase of the whole of our cargoes which consisted of provisions of various kinds, mostly for the sake of the flour; which Mr Moore ^{referred to} ~~would not dis-~~ pose of, upon any other conditions, — Early the next morning therefore, we set off down the river again, to carry the news and to make preparation for unloading —

The next day, Monday the 1st boats came down from Senegal to receive our goods — when these boats were loaded it was necessary for an officer to go with them, as ~~they~~ ~~took~~ the articles were

all to be landed upon the beach just within the mouth of the river, in order to be again shipped on board another larger craft, which had not yet come down. I was therefore dispatched to guard them until they should be put on board her — Here I diverted myself in roving about and picking up curious shells, and observing the movements of a great number of Pelicans, a very large white bird, which stretched themselves up to the height of a man, and were flapping about on different parts of the beach; there were also some camels which attracted some of my attention as they were a quadruped I had not frequently seen before — in this situation it began to be dark, and no vessel appearing to take on board what goods had been landed and, but under my care, I found

I should be obliged to remain with them on the beach until morning; and therefore began to make my arrangements for, before the night; soon however there came a person, the pilot of the harbour, who was employed by the Governor, to receive, and take amount of the cargo as it was delivered; he told me he was going to take logings with me, upon the sand. he bro't with him, half a dosen negros, and they soon built us a tent with their boat sails, under which we slept comfortable till morning; — we did not however sleep before we had taken some refreshment — I had some bread and cheese, and My partner bro't with him a jug of Palm wine, (I believe ~~the~~ only liquor produced in this country) upon which

we made a noble retreat. — At this station I remained three days, I did not spend the whole of my time however, on the beach; for the next day after I first landed, the rebel which was to receive our goods, came down the river, so that in the daytime I tarried with the gentlemen on board of her, and when night came we again pitched our tent on shore — There was no mephitic ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~air~~ or other in-
fect to vex us, but we were sometimes disturbed by the land crabs, which would be marching in some taste over our carcasses, in different directions, upon the whole, we used to sleep pretty comfortably — Thursday the twenty fourth I went again up to Town with the rebel on board of which was such a part of our cargo as had been discharged, for all of which I there received my receipt —

The next morning I came down on board, and found our vessel so near unloaded, that we got the whole out the day following. We had now nothing more to do but to get in readiness and push to sea. As our intended voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, had been by touching here, intirely frustrated; it was Mr. Moors design, after discharging their cargo here, to ~~load~~ carry the vessels to Bona vista, one of the Cape de Ven Islands, to load with salt, and from thence proceed to Boston. He had however agreed to carry the Governor in one of the vessels down to Goree, and as this would detain him a fortnight or three weeks, he concluded, to dispatch

our vessels immediately for Bona vista there to load, and wait untill he should arrive in the other Brigg from Goree.

By Monday we were ready for sea, but the first mate who, had gone up to Senegal the day before, not returning untill evening, we were obliged to defer sailing till the next morning. And as I have nothing more to do untill we begin to leave a head I will say something with respect to the customs and manners of the people here and the nature and productions of this country. Not however without first observing that the little time I was at this place, and that this little time, ~~having~~ been devoted to the duties of my office, which left me few opportunities to make any remarks, it must not be expected, ^{but} that the amount I here offer

of Senegal, the country round about, and its inhabitants will be very imperfect.

Senegal which I have before described, is now in possession of the French by whom which nation it was taken from the English during the last war - it is situated ~~about~~ ~~these~~ ~~or four~~ leagues on a small Island in the river Niger about three or four leagues from its mouth. This river is considered as one of the largest and finest in the continent of Africa - Does not fall into the Atlantic until after running a course of almost 3000 miles, and it is navigable ~~many~~ up several hundred leagues - The trade up it is considerable, the object of which is chiefly gum; for the slaves are always brought

and sold at Senegal - These poor creatures are generally, if not all together brought to market, by the Moors or rather they are what are called flying drabs, a fugitive race who have no settled place of abode, but who move a bout from one part of the country to another, driving their flocks and ~~herds~~ herds with them; when they meet with a fertile spot which will afford food for their flock they immediately pitch upon it where they remain no longer than this object of their just attention invites them; - Of this vagrant set there are great numbers in the Moors dominions. - And these are they who lurk in small parties, round a negro village, watch their opportunity and when they fly an unhappily person, at a little distance from

whitt or friends, they mark him as
their prey, seize upon him, and imme-
diately rubby him ^{away} a wretched captive,
to the house of bondage - In this
their horrid practice they spare not
age or sex - I had an opportunity
of seeing some of those ~~villains~~ hardened
villains while I was at Mr Pauls
for they came, ~~to~~ to him two fever
al times with captives in the count
of the two days I was at his house, One
gang of them bro't a yong girl from
appearance about forben or fifteen
years of age - whom I learnt from
that Gentleman, who spoke their
language, they had kidnaped as
she was a little distanbe from her
father, after water - They introduced

Ed^{her}, as is their custom, naked as she came
from the womb, to be examined as
to health and soundness of body - I also
saw a nother gang of them when I was
the last time at the Town at a
Mr St Johns - they had with them eight
of those unfortunate creatures ~~consisting~~
of yong men and small boyes & girls -

The Inhabitants of Senegal and of
the villages round about it, are in general
very stout and well made, very few of them
having that deformity in the legs, which
distinguish what we call Guinea Negroes with
us - but the remarkable in their features,
such as thick lips and squat noses, are as uni-
versal here as at any other part of the Coast
- As to their distortions, I was not long enough
amongst them, to observe a sufficient number
of instances upon which to form an opinion
- but if any conclusion can be drawn from

the tenor of their countenances I should not
hesitate in pronouncing them of a very
blaud ~~distinction~~ make — The dresses of
the women is nothing more than a piece of cloth
tied round the waist, which sometimes come
as far down as the calves of their legs, but seldom
lower than the knees — and there are some of
the higher class who add to this another
piece thrown loosely over the shoulders,
which however ~~they~~ may be said to be
carried rather than wore by them, as it is
not often you see it in any other way than
hanging across the shoulder in a twist or
folds — They appear to be very fond of beads
of any kind, wearing of them in tiers round
their necks, wrists, ~~and~~ ankles, and some
times round the waist — in this last place
in particular the children wear them, who
are most comonly, in every other respect in-
tirely naked — They wear no ornament on

their heads, ~~but~~ have their hair or wool cut
close — except some few instances where I
have seen it done up in many curious bairds

The dress of the men, which is generally the
case in all countries, is yet more simple
than that of the females — having nothing
more than a small apron or elout ~~just~~
sufficient to conceal what modesty require
should be hid, — From these however may
be excepted a few instances where they
have adopted the European fashion of
shirts and trousers —

Their professed religion is that establish-
ed by Mahomet, and it is not a little to
their credit that they make it more their
business, to live ~~perfectly~~ agreeable to its
precepts, ~~and~~ than the most of those
who pretend, to be disciples of a much
more divine master, — I have always
observed them to kneel and pray with their

faces towards the sun, at his rising, and at his going down — they generally cited these religious ejaculations, by making some marks in the dust with their fingers and then tossing some of the dust over their shoulders — but this was no doubt some superstitious notion, ^{into} which I could not penetrate — and of which their religion is by no means destitute; one very curious instance of this I cannot forbear mentioning — Observing them to wear more or less of what they called Gregnes, which were little ~~offen~~ kind of bags about the bigness of a small plum, ~~storing~~ ^{storing} their needs, I was very desirous of knowing their use, I found on inquiring that some of them were averse to telling me; however there were several of whom I enquired I did not hesitate to inform me that

they were preventives against accident at death, and I found that each particular little bag had its accident to guard against, that is they had one that should preserve them from being drowned, another to ~~ward~~ ward off the stroke of an Enemy &c. What was contained in those little bags to which they resorted such Ideas of safety, I never could learn; but it should seem that it was not every where to be picked up, as I frequently saw some with seven or eight which others had no more than one or two — and as self preservation is the first law of nature, we must naturally suppose they would lose no pains in furnishing themselves with ^{the} imaginary, preservative against an untimely fate —

Their manner of saluting when they meet is by joining hands in a very gentle manner, and then bringing ^{them} to the breast — which motion of the hands are repeated three

times successively. They make use of very little animal food except fish (with which their coast abounds) - their most common diet being a kind of pudding, made of indian corn; which is pounded by the women in large wooden mortars, and then boiled to the consistency of a masons mortar - which the whole of it is much the same as what in some parts of our country, is ^{travercally} Romanly. This is the only article of food which their country produces, or rather the only one which they cultivate - and there is no kind of fruit except one or two sorts of ~~fruit~~ miserable plumbs - This scarcity of vegetable production is however to be attributed, more to the careless inattention and indolence of the inhabitants, than to any natural sterility in their soil - which appears to be sufficiently fertile to produce any of our common plants - and their climate

is that in which we commonly find a great variety of delicious fruit -

Their tame animals round about the sea coasts are Camells, Apes, Goats, Hogs, some horn cattle, and a few sheep, which, are however clothed in long coarse hair, instead of wool like those of Europe or America - And in the inland are many ferocious beasts such as Lions, Tigers, wolves &c - there are also, monkeys, camellions, and several other kinds of quadrupeds -

Of the feathered here, the first both for size and oddity is the Estrochet - the largest I saw was as tall as a common horse - that is from the ground to his back - but above this he stretched his long neck so high that I could not reach his bill - which must have been not less than eight or nine feet from the ground, at a very moderate computation - their legs are long and terminate at the bottom in two

claws or toes — they lay an egg nearly in propo-
tion to their bodies — that is almost the size
of common water melon, and white, the shell
of which is thick and strong, and very much to
appearance like the English delft ware —

— They are covered with that soft plumage
known with us by British feathers — ~~but~~
^{they} have not that power to charn as when
transplanted to the head of some delightful female

They have also here, Parrots, Paroquets,
Regions, rather smaller than those common
with us, Pheasants, Cartridges, several
kinds of hawks, and a variety of lesser sort
of birds, of the sparrow & wren kind, but cover'd
with a more pleasing & delicate plumage than
those in America —

I have before observed that
their coast abounds in fish, of various kind
— but I am not sufficiently skilled in
natural history, to give names to a