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(Translated and edited by GEORGE F. JONES)¹

On the 14th of May, 1734, I traveled in God's name from Ebenezer to Abercorn and went on the same day, in the company of dear Mr. Bolzius, to Purysburg,² where we spent the night and embarked

on the 15th for Savannah. Mr. Bolzius had resolved to go with me to Charleston, partly through right tender and fatherly love for me, partly through love for the Germans in South Carolina, and partly to attend to his own personal affairs. This evening we reached Savannah safely and thanked God, who once again had already provided for our further progress, since a boat lay ready for departure.

On the 17th we departed from Savannah. And since we are sailing between uncultivated wastelands and could not reach Port Royal this evening, we had to spend the night in the little open boat.

On the 18th we passed Port Royal and went ashore toward evening where we found many mulberry trees.³ The boatmen had also come on land without having fastened the boat, which the tide pulled from shore and carried down the river. There was no one who could swim after it; and there was no help to be hoped for in this place, especially since it was evening, the tide was strong, and the ocean was not far. I gave up all my belongings as lost and regretted nothing more than that I had not previously used them for the benefit of my neighbor. On this occasion God gave me a Christian reflection concerning the treasures of this world, which we must someday lose, and let me realize now what many others realize only on their deathbed, but with the difference that I soon recovered what I had lost. For through a divine ordinance it came to pass that a sloop arrived and brought back the boat and my belongings again.

The 19th of May. A storm wind forced us to go ashore on land, where we found a colony of Blacks, with whom we had to spend this night too. Because almost all of them understood the English language,⁴ we took the opportunity to speak with them. They complained greatly about their master, as most Negroes have cause to do. For, 1) the master compels them to work all week for him and gives them nothing to eat but only allows them to work for themselves on Sunday, when they must earn enough to eat all week long. 2) Another master requires his Negroes to get so much for him every day; and if, as often occurs, they earn nothing on some day,⁵ then they must pay him double on the second day or three times on the third day.⁵ Because this is often impossible, it causes them to steal; but the master is

¹ This diary entitled "Travel Journal of Commissary von Reck when he journeyed from Ebenezer in Georgia to the northern colonies of America and from there back to England, Holland and Germany" has never before been published in English translation. It is contained in its German original version in Samuel Urlsperger, *Ausführliche Nachricht van den Saltzburgischen Emigranten, die sich in America niedergelassen haben. Worin . . . die Reuse Diaria dee Königlichen Groszbritannischen Commissarii and der beyden Saltzburgischen Prediger . . . enthalten* (Halle, 1785), 242 pp. Excerpts of Reck's diary of the trip to America and his sojourn in Georgia were published immediately after his return to Europe. Cf. *An extract of the journals of Mr. Commissary von Reck, who conducted the first transport of Saltburgers to Georgia*. Published by the Direction of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (London, 1784). Reprinted in: Peter Force, *Tracts*, Vol. IV, no. 5 (Washington, 1846).

² For the identity of von Reck and Bolzius and the location of Abercorn and Purysburg, see the preceding article by Dr. George F. Jones.

³ Mulberry trees, which were raised as food for silk worms, were expected to be Georgia's chief crop.

⁴ The fact that many Negroes knew no English at this late date, coupled with their linguistic isolation, explains why the Gullah patois has survived so long in these islands.

⁵ An early example of the practice of letting slaves hire themselves out for the benefit of their owners. At this time certain Scottish gentlemen in Savannah were accused of living lives of leisure while hiring out their indentured servants.

satisfied with this, if only he gets the set wage. 3) He allows them to breed like cattle so that he will get a lot of slaves. 4) He whips them almost to death but never punishes even the greatest misdeeds with death, because he would thereby lose a slave; and therefore, since the Negroes know this, it leads them to all sorts of rascally deeds. They were very attentive and gathered around us while we spoke with them almost the whole night about God, the creation of the world, human life, and why mankind was created. They assured us that they would gladly work as slaves if only they were instructed at the same time. But then 5) their master would deal them far harder blows if they dared to mention that they wished to become Christians.⁶

On the 20th of May, all alone and without a pilot, we passed the Sound,⁷ which is a very dangerous place in the sea where many have been wrecked. We risked it without having recognized the danger. But we were not a little frightened, and we praised God, when we were told how easily one can be shipwrecked here.

The 22nd. We reached Charleston in the night. I was steering by a single star, which brought us to our destination just as a great storm arose, with thunder, lightning, and rain, which would have caused our death or at least subjected us to great danger if it had caught us en route in the bay.

On the 26th my dear Mr. Bolzius departed again for Georgia. In the afternoon a rich merchant came and offered me a check for 100 pounds sterling, which I refused at first but finally accepted because of his insistence.

On the 27th I departed in God's name in a sloop for Pennsylvania. Praised be God, who brought us safely across the bay at Charleston! We advanced with a south and southwest wind at five to six miles per hour.

The 28th. God maintained the good wind and good weather for us. I had left Ebenezer very sick.⁸ This weakness increased greatly, and I would have died in my misery if Thy Word, oh God, had not been my comfort. There was a speaker among the Quakers on board the ship. This man acted very serious at first and showed a great displeasure in the wicked life of the sailors, but in so doing he was unaware of the beam in his own eye. He boasted that he had never worn a button on his hat or a pleat in his coat and had never committed a proscribed sin. Only he spoke the filthiest and most disgraceful language and was more steeped in lechery than anyone I had ever seen at his age.

The 29th. My weakness, which was accompanied by a severe diarrhea, almost killed me.

The 30th of May. We had sped along yesterday and today with a south-southwest wind at five, six, and even seven miles per hour. In the afternoon we had a calm which lasted until

The 31st.

The 1st of June. God blessed us with a good wind at 8 o'clock in the evening, yet my sickness had so worn me out that I wished to be released and to be with my Savior.

The 2nd was the first day of Pentacost. This evening we cast a sounding-lead into the sea and found bottom at 21 fathoms, and soon thereafter at 17, although, to our great surprise, we saw no land.

The 3rd. We caught sight of Maryland, the coast of which is very low and often inundated and therefore unpopulated. Soon thereafter we discovered the headland of Pennsylvania, Cape Delaware.⁹

The 4th. The current had brought us somewhat further and into sight of Cape May, which is the headland of New Jersey. The wind was against us so that, despite much effort, we could not enter the Delaware River. In the afternoon God granted us a southwest wind, which brought us to Louis-Town,¹⁰ a city on the head-

⁶ Because English law provided no basis for slavery, slave owners tended to follow the slave codes of Latin America, where the Roman Catholic religion permitted the enslavement of heathens. Lest conversion bring emancipation, most owners tried to prohibit missionaries; but later, as slavery crystallized around race rather than religion, such prohibition was no longer necessary.

⁷ Apparently St. Helena Sound.

⁸ Many of the Salzburgers at Ebenezer had died of dysentery by this time. Von Reck may have owed his life to this change of climate.

⁹ Von Reck writes this, probably as he heard it, as Capo Delloway.

¹⁰ Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware. Muhlenberg (*op. cit.*, I, p. 65) calls it both *Lovistown* and *Ludewigstowm*.

land of Delaware, and also brought a pilot on board. In this region one sees many wrecked and grounded ships which used their own navigator instead of a pilot.

The 5th. At seven o'clock in the morning we entered a narrow channel in the bay, where we had only one and a half fathoms of water. Yet God, our *God*, helped us through safely and we reached the Delaware River about midday. The shores of the river are very pleasant on both sides. Upon entering the river, what you see on the right belongs to New Jersey, on the left to Pennsylvania. Forty miles short of Philadelphia we passed Newcastle, which is inhabited by Irish and Germans, and soon after that Christiana Creek,¹¹ where Swedes and Danes have settled. Toward evening we dropped anchor because the sky was becoming overcast and a storm was feared.

On the 6th at 3 o'clock in the morning we raised anchor and sailed past Chester, a little city some ten miles from Philadelphia, and through the grace of God we reached Philadelphia safely at 11 o'clock. There a merchant named Mr. Peter Baynton,¹² whom I had not even known, received me into his house most graciously and treated me most hospitably. I visited the Lord Proprietor, Thomas Penn, and His Excellency, Governor Gordon. Both received me with much joy and signs of affection. In fact Mr. Penn donated to our colony a sloop loaded with hardtack, flour, butter, and cheese, which, as he assured me, was to depart at once. Praised be God, who directs beneficent hearts to us unworthy sinners even here in these lands!

This city of Philadelphia is very flourishing. Agriculture and commerce are pursued with equal zeal, and it already has within itself everything that contributes to man's needs, comforts, and temporal pleasures. Foodstuffs are very cheap. The city itself is very regular and pleasant and is situated on a healthy spot on the Delaware River. The streets are drawn in straight lines, and most of them are paved. The houses are constructed very beautifully of stone and wood according to the latest building styles. And everything that one sees so splendidly built was still a wilderness 50 years ago. And the beginning that the Quakers made under William Penn was so slight and was accompanied by so many difficulties that perhaps no other city has ever grown to such size and strength in so short a time. Great freedom furthers commerce, and I saw almost twenty ships in the harbor. This is the home of all religions and sects: Lutheran, Reformed, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Catholics, Quakers, Dunkers, Mennonites, Sabbatherians, Seventh-Day Baptists, Separatists, Bohemian Schwenkfelders, Tuchtfelders, Wohlwüschers, Jews, and Heathens, etc.¹³ Various good arrangements are made for the poor, and invalids are cared for in a hospital. The streets are very good and pleasant and lined with trees, summer houses, and pleasure gardens. Where it is not too stony or hilly, the land is well cultivated; and in many areas the forest has been cut back so far that the air here is healthy.¹⁴ It is very cold here all winter, and in summer it is very warm, in fact warmer than in the southern regions. The many cliffs and mountains bear many minerals, which mostly lie useless because of the lack of miners. The rivers and streams generally spring from the rocks and carry very cold and clear water. In them one catches trout, eels, etc. Cattle raising is not so advantageous here as in South Carolina and Georgia; for in those regions people are not much troubled by maintaining their cattle in winter; whereas in the cold regions one must worry in the summer about the winter. The grapes that are found here in the forests are sour like ours¹⁵ with thick skins and a large seed. Sir Thomas Penn is proprietor of the entire province. Next to him is the governor, who is proposed by him but appointed by the king. Neither of these gentlemen abuses his power, and love guides the helm of their government.

¹¹ Christina Creek flows into the Delaware at Wilmington. For this and several of the following facts I am indebted to a letter from R. N. Williams, 2nd, Director of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

¹² His son, John Baynton, was a member of Baynton, Wharton and Morgan, an important Philadelphia business firm.

¹³ The multitude of sects in Pennsylvania, particularly among the Germans, must have been most confusing to a European visitor. These sects ran the whole gamut of religious experience and experimentation. The Mennonites, the Dunkards (whom Reck calls Dümpler), and the Schwenkfelders represented the more important groups. The *Siebenbürger* were the result of an early schism in the Dunkard (Schwarzenau Brethren) sect. They became better known as Ephrata Brethren. *Tuchfelder* and *Wohlwüschers* must have been some of the ephemeral groups with which the province abounded.

¹⁴ The fevers at Ebenezer were attributed to the excess of trees and were expected to cease as soon as the forests were cleared.

¹⁵ Note that von Reck identified himself with Georgia, to which he returned.

The 9th of June. On Sunday God granted me an opportunity to bring the Germans in Philadelphia together, and I utilized this opportunity in God's name and edified myself with them very simply according to the grace that God granted me. May God grant His blessing!

On the 10th proceeded to Germantown, a very pretty and clean city built of stone one mile long and lying six miles from Philadelphia. Here dwell almost only worthy German people, who lead a pious life and by whom I was received with much joy. They all dropped their work and gladly granted me this day, which God then blessed in all of our hearts so that we promised, before the countenance of Jesus Christ, to conquer the Kingdom of Heaven through the power of His spirit.¹⁶

The 12th. As mentioned above, I had received a check for 100 pounds sterling in Charleston, which I was to cash in Philadelphia. I had now resolved to do something with this money, so I went to get it; but I discovered that the man was not at home but was at sea and was expected any day. The mounted post departed on

The 13th of June; and because the man had not returned in the meanwhile, I resumed my journey with limited money but much faith, and took leave of the Lord Proprietor, who told me something remarkable: Namely, he had learned through some Indian traders that there was an Indian nation several hundred miles from us in Georgia that are called Wels Indians.¹⁷ It is believed that their first ancestors came to America from Cornwall, a province in England, and that their children and descendants finally, through the great extent of time, entirely degenerated into Indians in color, morals, customs, and way of life. Yet they had still retained their Cornish language and they even preserved among them with great diligence a book from which they read something every week. It was his intention, therefore, to send them some people who could speak the Cornish language and to teach them of the Unknown God.

When I wished to depart, my dear Peter Baynton gave me his horse to ride to New York. A large company of worthy people from Germantown had gathered around me on horseback and accompanied me a good piece of the way. Underway I found the most beautiful peach trees in great quantity. The fruit is said to be much larger, more delicious, and more juicy than in Germany. There is a kind of snake here that is called a hornsake. If these stick their stinger into a tree, then it dies, as it is said, within twenty-four hours. We passed Frankford,¹⁸ a small village; and this evening, through the merciful love of our Savior, we reached Bristol, which is a small and well built city situated on a navigable river. Across the river lies Bridlington.¹⁹ Both places lie some 20 miles from Philadelphia.

The 14th. We set out again early this morning, and I continued my way alone in the company of Caspar Wistar. He told me in detail how difficult it is to get ahead because it is not easy to get servants and it is not Christian to buy Moors. The land itself is very productive of all sorts of grain; only the peas will not turn out well because, when they dry, they are eaten by worms and most of them are unsatisfactory for planting. There is a great abundance of horses here. Likewise, there is no shortage of them in other places in America, so that no one is seen walking, be it man, woman, or child.

The 15th of June. This morning at 10 o'clock we reached Trenton, which is the first city in New York.²⁰ A river, which we crossed, separates the two provinces of Pennsylvania and New York from one another. Here my escort turned back, who had conducted me to the boundary at the command of the governor. God be praised for this good deed, too! I continued my journey in God's name with the mounted post; and toward evening I came through New Brunswick, which is forty miles

¹⁶ Von Reek's religious terminology echoes that of the Pietists at Halle.

¹⁷ The settlement of the Welsh in America was actually cited to prove that England had a better claim than Spain. See Benjamin Franklin's *The General Magazine* for Feb., 1741, pp. 80-83; also Samuel Drake, *Biography and History of the Indians of North America* (Boston, 1837).

¹⁸ Von Reek partly germanizes this as Francfort. Similarly he germanizes Braunschweig (New Brunswick), Neu-Yorck, Lang Eyland, Staaten Eyland, Albanien, Eay (Rye), Standfordt, Striedtfeldt, Stradtford, Muhlfordt, Westerle, Hannover, and Sudkings-Town, all of which suggest that he followed oral sources. His spelling New-Yersi suggests a correct English rendition of a German pronunciation. Briston (Bristol) and Tairfield (Fairfield) are probably due to careless writing, for the latter reappears in his *Kurz gefasste Nachricht van dem Etablisement der Salzburgischen Emigranten zu Ebenezer in der Provinz Georgien in Nord-America* (Hamburg, 1777), 14, in which Rhode Island becomes Schloadeyland.

¹⁹ The correct name, at that time, for Burlington, N. J.

²⁰ This error is surprising, as is his failure to note that he had been following the Delaware all the way from Philadelphia.

from New York, then passed Piscataqua and remained overnight in Perth-Amboy. This and New Brunswick are pretty cities.

The 16th. At 10 o'clock in the morning I came to Elisabethtown, where many Germans live. This place is several miles long, but the houses are sometimes very widely spaced from one another; and most rural towns have only one street. At Elisabeth Point you have to be ferried cross the bay to New York. Therefore I boarded a sloop at 2 o'clock in the afternoon; but because there was a calm and the ebb tide came, we could not reach New York this evening and anchored in front of Long Island.

The 17th, which was a Sunday, we reached New York at 6 o'clock in the morning. Long Island, Staten Island, and Albany belong to the government of New York. This province formerly belonged to the Dutch but was ceded to the English in return for Surinam. Most of the inhabitants are still Dutch, and they have the two best churches in the city. This is the oldest city in the Northern provinces of America and is built in Dutch fashion. The streets and houses are kept as clean as in Holland. People complain that the place is not nearly so important commercially now as formerly, and many attribute this to the local government, the many taxes, and the fact that the rich exploit the poor. Yet it seems to me that the commerce is great enough to maintain worldly pleasures. An unailing proof of this is that the place swarms with Moors, who have introduced laziness, wealth, and high living. And although they fear here, as in Carolina, that their Negroes will some day cut their throats, the great convenience outweighs their fear.²¹ The governor of New York is not elected by the parliament of the province, as in the other provinces of America, but appointed directly by the king. This is the reason that this province alone must pay the king of England a certain yearly tribute. Long Island is very fertile and not as rocky and stony as New York. The province of Albany further inland, some 140 miles from New York, is largely settled with Germans and Dutch; for a Hollander, Jeremias van Rensler, holds it as a fief from the government.

On the 18th of June I visited Governor Casby and inspected the fort. Below it flows the Hudson River, which is navigable for 140 miles inland from its mouth. In this fort is the only (Georgia excepted) regular military unit of English infantry.

This afternoon I left in the company of many of my good friends and passed Harlem at four o'clock and then Kings Bridge, and arrived in the evening at New Rochelle, where we spent the night. This place was settled by the French who fled from Rochelle. Here they have a bountiful life and a fertile soil.

The 19th. This morning I left my company, bought a horse for four pistoles and thus continued my way in God's name with the mounted post. We passed Rye, which is a very spread-out village. A river forms the boundary here between New York and New England. The province of New England consists of three governments: 1) Connecticut, 2) Rhode Island, and 3) Boston. From New York one first reaches Connecticut, and the land along the above-mentioned river is called Christians Ground.

We passed Horseneck, where I was shown a plain where the Indians delivered a battle against the English but got the worst of it and had to withdraw. We fed our horses at Stamford, which is a little town 50 miles from New York. At midday we reached Norwalk, where one of my horses got lame so that I had to leave it behind. Hearty praise be to God, who moved the people here to help without delay. In the afternoon we came through Fairfield, a pretty city, which has broad streets. Also the houses here are built closer together. The governor of Connecticut is accustomed to live here. Streetfield is an extensive town. We spent the night in Stratford. Here and there God awoke good people, who tried to show me all great kindness. "Soul, forget it not . . . , etc."

On the 30th of June I came via Milford to New Haven, where there is an academy or college, which I also visited. The house is very large, and some 80 pupils and three professors live in it. They live two to a room,²² and they pay 6 shillings apiece in English money or about 12 *Groschen* per week for their lunch and supper. They teach languages here, especially Greek and Hebrew, Mathematics, history,

²¹ Here von Reck echoes the anti-slavery views of the Georgia Trustees.

²² Europeans still marvel at the American custom of having two students share a room.

geography, Latin, etc. The library which they showed me was donated to the college by an English bishop²³ and is extensive enough for a beginning.

The 21st. I reached New London in the afternoon. This little town lies on a river in a very agreeable and pretty region. It is also very favorably situated for trade, since the sea is only 7 leagues distance from the harbor. Nevertheless one sees very little traffic here yet, and this probably comes from the fact that the local merchants are not yet rich enough and the soil does not produce anything to encourage maritime trade. Here they are mostly Quakers and Presbyterians.

I rode until 11 o'clock at night to Stonington, where I spent the night. This place has its name from the fact that the region here is very hilly and *craggy* and the soil is covered with stones and therefore almost unusable. Nevertheless, if one can clean the fields of stones and plow them over, they are very fertile and bear the most beautiful grain.

The 22nd of June we crossed the river Pakatok, which forms the boundary between the government of Connecticut and that of Rhode Island. Westerly is the first town in Rhode Island. Not far from there lies South Kingston, which is built on a hill in a lovely fertile region. Three miles from South Kingston I had to take a ferry across the sound, which reaches inland to New Providence. In the evening I arrived safely in Newport, which is the capital of Rhode Island. This city lies on the sound. The open sea is only one hour away, the location therefore advantageous for trade, which flourishes here. Ships and sloops are seen arriving and departing almost daily. Many a merchant has from 16 to 20 ships at sea, in which no one else owns an interest. Very active trade is carried on with Guinea, the West Indies, Barbados, Portugal, Spain, and England, and, consequently, the city has grown greatly. It is a mile long, the houses are of brick and wood and very comfortable, and some of them are built very expensively and according to all the rules of decorative architecture. The streets are paved, to be sure, but too narrow, and this detracts from the appearance of the city. The city lies partly on a hill and has a beautiful view of the sea and the bay and into the country. The whole island is only 12 miles long, but it can be considered as a garden of America because it is so lovely. People consider the wood here better and more durable for shipbuilding than in Carolina and Pennsylvania; and therefore many merchants there have their ships built here. The cows and oxen here are of such exceptional size and strength that I have never seen their likes. With respect to their wool, the sheep here come very close to those in England; and here and in Boston they make a duck and a camlet, the latter of which is much stronger than any I have seen in Germany.

Most of the inhabitants are Quakers, although there are also Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Seventh Day Adventists here. The governor, who is elected by the province, is a Quaker. Because I arrived in Newport late, I did not wish to disturb the merchant to whom I had been sent but sought to spend the night at an inn. But no one wanted to receive me; and, although I finally found someone who was willing to take my horse into his yard, I still could not find quarters for myself at his place until I drew out my letters and asked about my merchant. Scarcely had I mentioned his name before the innkeeper entreated me to lodge at his house, which I did very gladly. But the merchant came the same evening and fetched me and showed me much kindness as long as I was there.

On the 23rd of June I inspected the fort at Newport, which stands on a little island not far from Newport and has two batteries, each provided with 40 cannon. All ships can be bombarded from this fort.

On the 27th I departed from Newport in the company of a merchant from Boston and a merchant from Jamaica. We rode no further than Seekonk, where we spent the night.²⁴

On the 28th of June in the afternoon I arrived safely in Boston. The merchant with whom I had traveled this far vacated a room for me in his house. And it was an odd thing that, when I wished to go to the merchant to whom I had been directed, it turned out that he was the very one who had traveled with me and had taken me into his house even before he knew me. May God ever repay the great

²³ Miss Barbara D. Simison of Yale University Library writes that this was George Berkley, Bishop of Cloyne,

²⁴ We have omitted here a somewhat lengthy description of Jamaica based on Reck's conversation with his fellow-traveler.

love and hospitality that I have received from him! It was also very remarkable that, because I had been unable to cash the check in Pennsylvania, God has led me with the few guilders that I had with me all the long way through North America. As if carried in my mother's arms from one place to the next, I have never suffered any want, in fact I have had an abundance of everything. Furthermore I shall be helped to a firm and childlike faith in my God by the following fact that, when a merchant here voluntarily offered me some money, I did not accept it and yet, as will follow, God nevertheless brought me across the sea to Dartmouth and from Dartmouth to London so swiftly and so comfortably that at my departure from London I still had something left over from the few guilders. "Think of what the Almighty can do when he confronts you with love!"²⁵

The city of Boston is the largest and most important commercial city in all English America. It lies on Massachusetts Bay and is as advantageously situated for trade as any city in the world. Various arrangements have been made here for both the safety and the convenience of navigation. A lighthouse, which has been constructed of stones on an island, beams with 18 lights at the ships that are coming and going. A fort, which has been built on another island, can bombard with 180 cannons a narrow channel that all ships must pass. It is also an especial advantage that two ships cannot pass through with a favorable wind and without great damage, there is generally a warship lying in front of Boston; and another fort, which they are going to repair on Port Hill, can command the bay as well as a good part of the city. A long pier out into the sea is a great advantage to shipping, since the largest ships of 500 tons can land and unload here, for which they pay a small sum. It is regrettable that everyone here applies himself to commerce, as a result of which agriculture is much neglected. At the same time everyone, especially the artisans who are connected with shipping, tries unscrupulously to get rich and to deceive the seamen in every way, for which reason many in England have been persuaded to discontinue their trade with Boston.

The trade in export goods consists of pitch, tar, turpentine, rice, skins, spermaceti, whalebone, dried and salted fish, rum, sugar, etc. The city is almost three miles long and has hills all around. It is almost entirely surrounded by water and is attached to the mainland by a narrow strip of land. The houses are mostly of stone and beautifully built. The streets are paved, to be sure, but not laid out regularly, and this greatly decreases the beauty of this big city. Hanover Street, as the governor has named it, is one of the loveliest. From a hill you see such a splendid view that I have never seen its like. Your eye is immediately struck by everything beautiful and perfect that nature has produced here and there: the city of Boston and Charlestown, the sea, the bay, a myriad of little islands, mountain ranges, valleys, plains, cliffs, rivers, cultivated fields, summer houses, pleasure gardens, groves, ships arriving and departing, a multitude of fishing boats, etc. All of this so marvelously declares the wisdom of God in so many forms of creation and should awake us to the praise of God, who, in His Son, has given us so much, yea everything.

On this very hill a high machine has been built on which a torch is lighted when danger is to be feared or is already at hand so that the entire countryside can be alerted from place to place in a short time. This city has reached such a magnitude in the past 104 years through the Grace of God. Most of the inhabitants of the city are Presbyterians,²⁶ who lead a serious and virtuous public life. The government is now conducted with much blessing (May God long grant it!) by Governor Belcher, who can be held up to everyone in America as an example of honesty, virtuous conduct, and love. The revenues of the government consist of some 60,000 pounds in New England money, reckoned at 4 pounds to 1 pound sterling. There are very Christian institutions here for the poor and the orphans. For example, there is a grain house in which they store a quantity of grain every year when the grain is cheapest. Then, when grain is expensive in winter and the poor people begin to hunger, the grain they need is supplied to them at the price at which it was bought. Likewise, there are a hospital, four schools for poor orphans, etc. Four miles from Boston is Cambridge University, where there are 200 students.

Across from Boston on the mainland lies Charlestown, a beautiful city that is

²⁵ The opening verse of a hymn.

²⁶ Von Reck seems to confuse Presbyterians and Congregationalists.

older than Boston. For the founding fathers did not risk settling so near the water because they could have been attacked by enemy ships. But with time this fear has disappeared and they later established this city because it is better situated for commerce.

The 2nd of July. Governor Belcher, who showed me much affection, promised to give our Salzburgers in Georgia a great quantity of boards for building a church, schools, and houses, which two sloops will transport. May our merciful Father reward this dear man in soul and body for this great benefaction, especially in eternity! Everyone in America knows that God has never so blessed a colony as He has blessed our colony in Georgia. May God grant us to look upon Him as the source of all good and may we receive grace for grace from His abundance.

The 3rd. When I arrived in Boston there was a ship ready to go to London. However much I wished to depart with this opportunity, my baggage, which I had sent from Newport by water, had not arrived. As an especial favor the captain waited for 24 hours to see whether it might arrive by that time. But because it had not come, he took leave of me and set sail from Boston today. When he had sailed some 9 miles he met an east wind, which was contrary for him but favorable for another English ship that arrived today. This caused him to return to Boston in a small boat in order to learn whether he had anything to fear from war. Meanwhile my baggage arrived too; and I was helped very kindly by the captain of the warship, who wished to seek out Captain Hammerden of the above-mentioned ship, which is named the Priscilla, and to have my things brought to it in his boat. Along with a merchant he endeavored to move my things from the sloop into his boat; only the captain of the sloop would give them neither to him nor to the merchant, not even against a security, until I came myself. Then he not only delivered them to me but even refused to accept any money for the freight.

Shortly before my departure several merchants came to me and made the following propositions concerning the reception of Salzburgers or other people who have been expelled for the sake of Jesus Christ: 1) they would pay the costs of the entire passage; 2) give them all necessary support for 2 or 3 years and also their tools; 3) When the colonists were in a good condition, they would pay off each year some of the applied costs and would do so until it was all paid. 4) Afterwards the land and everything else would remain the property of themselves and their male and female heirs and free of any burdens or assessments.²⁷ In this they 5) would allow them to seek out the land where it pleased them and 6) to enjoy complete freedom of conscience and 7) to select their authorities out of their own nation and their own means.

At 11 o'clock in the evening I departed from Boston in a small boat, and

On the 4th of July at 3 o'clock in the morning I overtook the ship, which was called the Priscilla. Scarcely had I boarded the ship before God granted us a welcomed west wind.²⁸

²⁷ Perhaps an allusion to the Trustees' unpopular stipulation that property could be transmitted only through the male line.

²⁸ The concluding portion of the diary *has* been omitted. It deals with the sea voyage his arrival in London on the 3rd of August and the subsequent return to the Continent. Another portion of Commissary von Reek's Report has just been translated and published by Dr. George Fenwick Jones. Of.

"Commissary von Reek's Report on Georgia," *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*, XLVII (March, 1963), 95-110.