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THE JOURNAL OF JOHN PIERPONT, TUTOR ON A WACCAMAW RIVER PLANTATION

Edited by Elise Pinckney

Soon after his graduation from Yale, the twenty-year-old John Pierpont sailed to South Carolina from his native Connecticut to seek his fortune "in a strange and a distant land." His destination turned out to be the rice-growing area of the Waccamaw River, where he was tutor from 1805 to 1809 for the sons of William ("King Billy") Alston of Clifton and Fairfield plantations.

The Account Book and Journal which the scholar began as he started his career afar is a small leather notebook, well-preserved and legible, which reveals much about the scribe as well as about his contacts in the south.¹

John Pierpont was to become conspicuous on the American scene as a Unitarian devine, poet and abolitionist. The few years in Georgetown County seem but a profitable digression from his New England image. His Journal occasionally uses phrasing that would indicate the budding poet, but his brief observations on the slaves do not here suggest the future reformer. It was not until 1843 that his third volume of verse *The Anti-Slavery Poems of John Pierpont* appeared. But he named his eldest child for William Alston; and he edited two school readers (which he had probably felt the need of when he was a tutor): *The American First Class Book* (1823) and *The National Reader* (1827), which were both classics for years.²

In coming south to teach, John Pierpont was following a trend set by many New Englanders who were Yale graduates. And in a few years he took the Alston boys back to his native area, where soon they entered the University themselves.³

To be tutor in the household of William Alston was a fine opportunity. The planter and his second wife (Mary Motte) had a young family of six children. Their main residence was at Clifton

¹Account Book and Journal of John Pierpont, The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. The editor is grateful to the Trustees of the Pierpont Morgan Library for permission to publish the Journal.

²George Harvey Ganzmer, "John Pierpont," *Dictionary of American Biography* (1934); Abe C. Ravitz, "John Pierpont and the Slaves' Christmas," *Phylon* 21 (1960): 383-86.

³Elizabeth Brown Pryor, "An Anomalous Person: The Northern Tutor in Plantation Society, 1773-1860," *Journal of Southern History* 47, (1981): 364-65; George C. Rogers, Jr., *The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina* (Columbia, 1970), p. 305; Arney R. Childs, ed., *Rice Planter and Sportsman: The Recollections of J. Motte Alston, 1821-1909* (Columbia, 1953), p. 25.

going in McHickett's Company. I believe if the horse is in order I could get from \$75 to \$100 for him. Also tell Henry to take care of the sheep and cattle, also the pigs and feed them well. I only wish I could get home soon, so I could manage my own business again. My mind is getting worried very much about home.

If you can find out when Lt. D. Salley returns please send me my watch. He is going home on a second furlough and we poor privates only are entitled to one in every 3 months [*undecipherable*]. My time again to go on guard duty. Guard is a time to studie nothing but home. You sit there and every soldier is speaking about home and how many weeks yet before we are getting home.

The wind is getting up and we will have a blustering day. I believe we are very much spoiled over, to be industrious again, I believe soldier life is a very confining and lazy period of life. The little experiences I have had is enough of it. Tell Henry to have corn and peas ground up for old Spott and I believe he will fatten from it. Lt. Salley is about to leave and it is my time for guard.

From your truly devoted husband
D. Louis

Give Mary many kises for me and
my compliments to all.

plantation, where Alston had built an impressive mansion some fifteen years before Pierpont arrived. George Washington had been entertained there during his 1791 tour through South Carolina and had noted in his diary that William Alston was "esteemed one of the neatest Rice planters in the state. . . . His house which is large, new, and elegantly furnished stands on a sand hill, high for the Country, with his Rice fields below; the contrast of which, with the lands back of it, and the Sand and piney barrons through which we had passed, is scarcely to be conceived."⁴

The young New Englander was determined not to be swayed by "the splendid pomp with which I am surrounded." He confided to a friend, "I have observed, as a general thing, that those who have changed their New England characters for those of Carolina, have not, on their return been considered by the N. Englanders as having gained by the exchange. I have determined as much as in me lies, to keep my N.E. habits if I can't exchange them for those that are evidently better."⁵

Pierpont improved his time in the south with a self-imposed course of reading, and he kept in his Account Book a Catalogue of Books read since November 20, 1805. This list includes poetry, biography, letters, translations, classics and history. It amounts to more than seventy-five volumes; a total, he conscientiously notes, of more than 65,000 pages.⁶

The Account Book also records the thermometer readings for some months, which must have constituted some sort of curiosity for Pierpont. It notes the Articles of Clothing the tutor brought with him: such as, 3 pr. Nankeen Pantaloons, 2 pr. velvet Pantaloons, 5 Linen Shirts and one White Silk Hankderchief. And it enumerates the expenses for July and August 1809 when he took the Alston boys to Connecticut, bought books for them; and even lists the books he bought for the Alston girls at home.⁷

Journal

On the 9th of October 1805 I left my Father's family and my native village to seek my fortune in a strange and a distant land. I waited in New Haven (Connecticut) from the 14th till the 20th of the month expecting daily to sail. During my stay at N.H. and previous to

⁴Joseph A., Groves, *The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina* (Atlanta, 1901), pp. 51-57; Alberta Morel Lachicotte, *Georgetown Rice Plantations* (Columbia, 1955), pp. 18-19, 22-24.

⁵Pierpont to Samuel Hitchcock, June 22 and Aug. 13, 1822, Yale University Library, quoted in Ravitz, "John Pierpont and the Slaves' Christmas," p. 385.

⁶Account Book and Journal of John Pierpont, pp. 130-135.

⁷Ibid. pp. 17, 19, 21, 172, 74-79.

my departure from Litchfield I received letters of introduction from Honble. John Rutledge of Charleston to Henry William Dessassure [Desaussure], Thomas Bee, Junr., Cleland Kinlock, Esqrs., and Revd. Mr. Bowen — from Mr. Joel Adams, Junr., to Mr. Joe Adams, Senr., and Isaac Tucker, Esqr., Cedar Creek, near Columbia, S. Carolina; from President Dwight to Revd. Doctor Hollingshead, with letters general from Revd. Azel Backus,⁸ Revd. Dan Huntington and Revd. Doctor Dwight.

We sailed on the 20th of Octo. from the wharf in the Schooner Eliza, Daniel P. Augur, master, and lay off the light house till in the night when we weighed anchor and at noon of the 21st arrived at New York. Here we lay two days wind bound and on the 23rd at noon sailed for Sandy Hook, passed the Hook at sunset and lost sight of land the next day. On the 25th a head wind drove us eastward till we came into the gulph stream. The wind was violent and the seas boisterous. We crossed the Gulph easterly, and the wind continuing contrary for two or three days we were driven several leagues beyond it.

The passengers, between twenty and thirty, were for the most part seasick, a feeling, which beyond any other unnerves both the body and mind, and renders them unfit for any exertion. On the 2nd and 3rd of November we were off Charleston bar, and heard the engagements between the French Privateer Creole on the one part, and the Ship Esther, an English Guineaman, on the other. They were however at too great a distance to be seen by us, and we could only hear the report of the cannon. On Sunday, November 3rd, we came in sight of Tybee light house at the mouth of Savannah River, where a pilot came on board to conduct the vessel into port, which he effected on the 5th. On my arrival in Savannah I received and accepted an invitation to dine with the family of Mr. Johnston, a fellow passenger.

When I engaged for my passage to Charleston by way of Savannah, I was to pay 20 dollars, the same price as if I were to have gone directly to Charleston; but on my arrival at Savannah, the plan was disclosed of taking freight for the West Indies and not going to Charleston at all. I was obliged to pay the 20 dollars from motives of prudence rather than from what I considered as Justice. However, I soon found the Schooner Industry, Capt. Brown, to sail for Charleston with the first fair wind. This was on the 9th when we left Savannah for Charleston. For my passage and supplies I was to pay 10\$. We sailed down the river thirteen miles to Tybee light, there anchored and on the next morning (Sunday 10th) we put out to sea.

⁸Pierpont had recently assisted Backus for a few months in an academy at Bethlehem.

We sailed for some time with a small breeze but were in the afternoon becalmed (a circumstance often attending us on our passage from N. York to Savannah). But in the night a gale sprung up ahead and not being able to beat against it we with much difficulty regained Tybee in the morning of the 11th. Here again we lay wind bound the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. On the 14th we put out again to sea and were again driven back. On the 15th we put out again and sailed with a good breeze and in the night came in sight of Charleston light house, when the wind shifted and a strong gale drove us back 2/3 of the distance to Savannah. Then on the 16th after a calm wind again turned in our favour and on the 17th we landed in Charleston.

Immediately after my landing I inquired for Mr. John Cunningham to whom I had a packet from his son in N. Haven. I found him and introduced myself to himself and family, was kindly and hospitable treated, and his son went with me and called on Mr. Northrop, my classmate for whom I also had a letter from his brother. He informed me of the vacancy in the College which Doctor Buist⁹ would wish to supply, and that of a private instructor in the family of Mr. William Allston. Mr. Rutledge had recommended me to the latter of these places and Mr. Robert Rowland to the former. I heard the proposals of Dr. B., but as both Messrs. Rutledge and Alston were out of town I thought proper, at the request of Mrs. Alston, to defer deciding till the return of Mr. A.

On the 19th I dined with Mr. Rowland with whom, as with Mr. Rutledge, I gained an acquaintance at Bethlems. On the 20th I dined with Revd. Mr. Bowen. On the 21st with the Revd. Doctor Hollingshead. I visited many of my college friends and acquaintances, among whom more especially were the two Gadsdens to one of whom I had a letter from our classmate and friend Sterling. On the 21st I visited Mr. Allston's with Mr. Rutledge but found him sick and agreed to call the next day, and did so on the 22nd. Heard his proposals and after comparing the advantages and disadvantages probably attending either situation I waited on Mr. A. on the 23rd and closed with him on his own terms of 600\$ per ann[um] free of all expense besides my clothing. I called the same day on Doctor Buist and acquainted him with my acceptance of Mr. A's proposal. He seemed a little disappointed and told me he thought I had erred egregiously in judgement, and decided much against my own interest. I told him That very possibly I had, but I had decided according to my own views, but that I might, I readily acknowledged, repent at some future period. He gave

⁹The Rev. George Buist, minister of the First (Scots) Presbyterian Church, had assumed his position as principal of the College of Charleston in October 1805. J. Harold Easterby, *A History of the College of Charleston* (Charleston, 1935), p. 49.

it as his decided opinion that I should. Whether I do or not, I will leave a blank here to write the number of the page on which hereafter my repentance is recorded ().

If however I do find that I misjudged I shall have the candour to acknowledge it, as well as the satisfaction of acting according [to] the best dictates of my own judgements as well as in concordance with the advice of a friend and classmate who has acted in both spheres.

I continued in Charleston with Col. Alston in my business from the 25th of November till the 13th of December, when I went in the stage to Geo [rgetown] — distant 60 miles. There were in the stage twelve passengers, five of whom were females; these with all their baggage together with the driver, very nearly filled the stage for I found but little room either to move or lie at ease, and I believe that even my seat was envied me by some of our fellow passengers. We all dined about 32 miles from Charleston, on a wild goose, etc. The place of wine was supplied with Porter of not the most superior quality, and the whole was afforded us for the moderate price of 1.50 Cents each!

We arrived at the Sampit ferry after crossing two others about nine in the evening, but our ferryman would not suffer greatly by a comparison with Charon, for as it regards light, I am sure they are equally deprived of it, he having none but a burnt stick, and as to politeness C[h]aron must certainly be considered the more accomplished Trenchman. However we were ferried across without waiting like the unburied of the ancients for the span of 100 years and like them wandering on the banks of a river as deep and sluggish as the Styx. I put up at old Mr. Graham's, and old gentleman who by intemperance seems to have been hurried so near the grave that he is obliged to have a servant to feed him. This servant however is not to be compared to Ganymed who was bearer to the gods; for if Ganymed had any spirit he would not have had the patience to wait for his intolerably slow mastication. Here I starved on a supper and breakfast at the rate of 1.3 Cents per day and in the afternoon was carried over the Waccamaw river to the plantation of Col. Alston, who had arrived the day previous with his family.

The day before I left Charleston I called on Mr. Darrington at the Planters Hotel. He was from New Haven lately and was accompanied by Revd. Sherman Johnson of Milford Cont., who came to Charleston for his health, and brought me a letter from Revd. Mr. Samuel Whittesey, giving me intelligence from home, the first I had received since leaving N. Haven on the 20th of October.

Dec. 25th. Christmas. Throuought the state of South Carolina, Christmas is a holiday, together with two of the succeeding days, for all literary seminaries, but more especially for the negroes.

On these days the chains of slavery with which the blacks are loaded and in which they toil unceasingly for their masters, are loosed. A smile is seen on every countenance, and the miseries of the year seem amply recompensed by this season of hilarity and festivity. No restraint is imposed upon their inclinations, no lash calls their attention from the enjoyment of all those delights which the most unconstrained freedom profers. Children visit their parents, husbands their wives, brothers and sisters each other, who live at a distance, and partake the pleasure of social connexions of which they are deprived during the remaining part of the year.

On the morning of Christmas Col. Alston gave orders that as many beeves might be butchered as to supply all with meat, which as a general thing is not allowed them. No less than 21 bullocks fell sacrifices to their festivity.

On my first waking the sound of the serenading violin and drum saluted my ears, and for some time continued to prove that no mind is below feeling the powerful effects of music. *Merry Christmas* met me at every corner, and sounded in my ears even in retirement. During almost the whole of the second and 3rd afternoons, the portico was crowded with these dancers, who by their countenances reminded me of the ancient nymphs, satyrs and fawns, and the fiddlers and drummers brought Pan and Timotheus freshly to mind.

Some of them who were native Africans did not join the dance with the others but, by themselves gave us a specimen of the sports and amusements with which the benighted and uncivilized children of nature divert themselves, before they become acquainted with the more refined and civilized amusements of life. Clapping their hands was their music, and distorting their frames into the most unnatural figures and emitting the most hideous noises their dancing. Jumping, Running and climbing trees was had as course in the interval, and the whole exhibited a scene which might more than compare with the bachannal feast and amusements of antiquity.

Their drink (Rum, sugar and water) was prepared in large tubs of two or three pailfuls, and carried about among them so that each one might drink his fill of the intoxication and Lethean draught. Nor was this opportunity suffered to pass unimproved, many for a while forgot both their sorrows and their joys, their hopes and their fears, and proved

“That Negroes like their masters will get drunk.”

It afforded a valuable exhibition of the taste and amusements, the joys and the pleasures of minds no more refined and who seem no more “conspicuous links in beings endless chain.”

Jany 8th, 1806. Today, fell the first snow this season, the thermometer at 49°, having fallen since yesterday from 60° above 0.

Jan'y 17th. This is the coldest day I have experienced since my arrival in Carolina, the thermometer standing at 30° above 0. The ice in my chamber was in the morning so thick that I could not break it with my hand to get water to wash myself from a pitcher standing in the room.

Jan'y 18th. The thermometer in the morning at 29°.

Jan'y 19th. I was weighed, and found my weight to be 155 pounds. On the 7th of December I weighted 143 pounds, so that in 43 days I have gained in weight twelve pounds, or a little more than four ounces and six drachms per day.

Jan'y 20th. Very moderate, the thermometer standing at 64° above 0.

Jan'y 18. Subscribed for the Balance and saw Capt. Augur with whom I had sailed from N. Haven to Savannah. He came into Georgetown with a cargo of Sugar from St. Bartholomews after a passage of only eight days from that place. I went aboard the old schooner in which I had like Ulysses and AEneas of old been tossed for a long time upon the broad back of Neptune's dominions, took a glass of Mediera with the mate who gave me five excellent oranges, and favoured me with the American Mercury of the 2nd instant.

Feb'y. 7th. Went with Mr. Joseph Alston to his seat at the Oaks, distant twelve miles,¹⁰ and the next day went on a hunting party for deer. Got thrown out, lost my horse, saw two deer but they both escaped alive, tho' one was wounded by one of our party, took dinner by the sea shore under the oaks. I returned home with Mr. A. in the evening compleatly fatigued with the pleasing toil, the royal sport of the day. Mr. A. has two ivory relics of curious sculpture found among the ruins of Herculaneum, which give an idea of the proficiency of the ancients in the art, and prove it to exceed any thing modern. The ivory seemed sound and was between two and three inches in diameter. He has also in his possession a ring found among the ruins of Carthage.

Very large live oaks surround his house, one of which is, six or seven feet from the ground, and in the smallest part of the body, at least twenty-two feet in circumference.

April 14th. The thermometer in the house hanging in a free current of air stands at 82° above 0 at 1 o'clock P.M. What then is the heat out of doors amid burning sands!

¹⁰Joseph Alston (1778-1816) was the oldest son of Williams Alston and a Princeton graduate. He was later to be governor of South Carolina, 1812-1814. In 1801 he had married Theodisia Burr, and they had moved into their new home The Oaks, which is now within the property of Brookgreen Gardens. Graves, *The Alstons and Allstons* p. 54; Rogers, *History of Georgetown County*, pp. 189-90, 305.

26th. I feasted upon a plentiful meal of Strawberries, very large and delicious. I measured the circumference of one. This is the length of the line

circumference of the strawberry

circumference of one measured April 20

circumference of one measured May 15

circumference lengthwise of one measured May 10th

May 1st. The thermometer in the house shaded stands at 85° above 0 at 4 O'clock P.M.

2nd. Ate green peas at dinner. Thermometer in the morning 64° above 0.

6th. Saw a small Aligator four feet long.

14th. Read 200 pages in Smollett's History Octavo.

26th. Began to read Blackstone's Commentaries on the laws of England, under the direction of Joseph Alston, Exqr.

June 14th. Ate ripe pears and a ripe fig.

24th. Removed with Mr. Alston's family from Clifton to his residence at the Medway Sea shore.

July 3rd. Ate part of a ripe Watermelon.

16th. Ate a ripe peach.

17th. Ate part of a Muskmelon.

Aug. 3rd. Thermometer at ½ past 3 P.M. at 94° above 0.

5th " " 3 — 94°

31st. Removed with two of Mr. A's children from Medway Sea shore to Theoville, distant five miles, on account of the prevalence of the fever at Medway.

Sept. 4th. Was attacked by the fever and confined to my bed till

Sept. 11. Was absent from school from the evening of Wednesday the 4th till the morning of Monday the 16th, one week and three days.

Octo. 17th. Removed back from the sea shore at Theoville to Midway.

Novr. 19th. Mr. Alston heard the children's exminations in geography, and on the day previous (Nov. 18) I engaged to spend another year in his family on the same terms and same conditions as I had spent the last. I am at liberty to leave him immediately on the appearance of contagious or epidemic distempers in Charleston, while I am there; or for any consideration which I shall consider sufficient inducement, on a few weeks previous notice.

Nov. 20. Mr. A. and his family removed from Midway sea shore back to Clifton. I presented my account to Mr. A. The sum agreed upon last November was 600 dollars. I had received in money and articles for which by my request he paid money \$173.85. I had expended (as

per account on p. 148) 30 dolls 25 cts. The ballance against me (not reckoning the 600) was 143 dolls, 60 — (see p. 150) *all of which he generously cancelled and engaged to stand indebted the original 600 dollars.*

Decr. 6. Mr. Alston's house at Clifton was burnt and the family removed on the 6th to Fairfield.¹¹ The loss estimated by Mr. A. at 30,000 dollars.

12th. I killed two black ducks at a shot, and widgeon at a second shot, the first ducks I ever killed.

Jan'y. 18 [1807]. It snowed a very few minutes, not enough however to be visible upon the ground. Finished the second reading of Blackstone.

Feb'y. 3. About two inches of snow fell. More that has fallen at any other time since I arrived in Carolina.

17th. I killed thirty-one blackbirds at a shot.

April 17th. Shot an Aligator seven feet eight inches long.

18. Shot another with two balls, about six feet long.

25th. What bloody work I make with the Alligators! Today I've killed another.

June 14th. I went on board a vessel for Charleston, and the 15th we sailed down to the mouth of Winyaw bay and lay against North Island waiting for winds from the evening of Monday the 15th till the morning of Saturday the 20th. During this time the youngest of the four boys who were with me was almost constantly sick of a fever, and for a great part of the time was very ill indeed. In such a situation, without skill in the application of medicines, and without medicine had my skill been much greater, I was but indifferently prepared to stand so satisfactorily as I could wish in the place of his parents. However, he lived it through, and on Saturday, after a passage of about eight or nine hours, we all landed safe in Charleston. This was one of the most unpleasant weeks I ever experienced. Scarcely a single occurrence tended to interrupt a continued succession of doubts, fears, apprehensions and vexations. The day I went on board we lost an excellent wind which might with all ease have carried us to Charleston before night, by the stupid negligence of a foolish captain, and any one who has lain a week aboard of a little dirty vessel, half starved and waiting till the moon fulls for the wind to change, may easily conclude in what humour the rest of the week found me. However, I played the stoic as much as could be expected, when surrounded by negroes, women and children.

July 7th. I ate part of a ripe watermelon and five ripe peaches. I write this to know at what season fruits of various kinds ripen, not as

¹¹Fairfield plantation was the northern portion of the Alston's Prospect Hill holdings on the Waccamaw. Lachicotte, *Georgetown Rice Plantations*, Pp. 19, 24.

an Epicure who consider the *eating* of such importance as to sanction a record.

10th. Commenced studying French with Mr. Godard.

Aug. 31st. Left Charleston for Sullivans Island on account of the Yellow Fever — accompanied by the four Boys — to reside in the house and family of Major Thomas Pinckney.

Oct. 22nd. Edward Pinckney began school with me.

30th. I was confined by the Influenza.

Novr. 9th. I returned from the Island to Charleston.

23rd. Came in the stage from Charleston to Georgetown, and on the 24th from Georgetown to Fairfield, after an absence of five months.

25th and 26th employed in settling down and arranging business and on the 27th we begin to study.

Decr. 1. Mr. Alston and myself came to a settlement and found due to me for this year, over and above what money I had received, 275 dollars. but he agreed that he would allow me at the rate of 800 dollars a year instead of 600, and gave me for the two years service a note for 1,100 dollars, with legal interest (*viz*) seven per cent.

June 8th, 1808. Edward Pinckney left School.

17th. Removed from Fairfield to Midway Sea shore.

Aug. 25. Was attacked by the fever and confined to my bed sixteen days. After an intermission of about a week was again visited by the fever and confined till the 24th of Sept.

Oct. 3rd. From the 25th of Aug. to this day the school was suspended on account of the sickness of myself and the children.

24th Removed from Midway back to Fairfield and missed an expected return of the fever and ague. No frost yet.

Nov. 24th. The boys were examined in Latin in presence of the family and on the 25th they began the Greek Grammar.

1809

Jan'y 5th. The thermometer stood at sunrise at 27° above 0 — 2° lower than it has been at any time these three winters past.

March 25. Mrs. A. picked a large strawberry in the garden almost perfectly ripe.

March 28th. The two past nights we have had ice.

April 18th. Thermometer at 87° above 0.

19th. Thermometer at 61°. This change in about the space of 12 or 14 hours. "Varium et mutabile semper."

Catalogue of Books read since November 20th, 1805

Title	Fold	Vols	No. of pages
Maror's British Nepos	12 ^{mo} ¹²	1	454
Paine's Age of Reason, part 1st 194, 2nd 143 [pages]	12 ^{mo}	2	337
Life and Correspondence of Abelard and Eloise	12 ^{mo}	1	110
Percivals Dissertations	8 ^{vo}	1	335
Churchill's Poems	12 ^{mo}	1	419
A Residence in France	8 ^{vo}	1	517
Washington's Life, Vol 1st 490, 2nd 600, 3rd, 600, 4th 526	8 ^{vo}	4	2316
Rowe's Translation of Lucan's Phars[alia]	12 ^{mo}	1	387
Pope's Iliad, Vol 1st 340, 2nd 360	12 ^{mo}	2	700
Don Quixote, Vol 1 340, 2nd 339, 3rd 359, 4th 411	12 ^{mo}	4	1448
Rumford's Essays, Vol 2	8 ^{vo}	1	494
Lord Lyttleton's Miscellanies. Son Vol 1st 413, 2nd 410, 3rd 397	8 ^{vo}	3	1320
Lord Lyttleton's Letters, Vol 1 222, 2nd, 260	12 ^{mo}	2	482
Odes and Epodes of Horace with Smart's Translation	12 ^{mo}	1	333
Boileau's Translation of Longinus	8 ^{vo}	1	100
Humes History of England. Vol 1 481, 2nd 511, 3rd 464, 4th 464, 5th 536, 6th 585, 7th 538, 8th 338	8 ^{vo}	8	3930
Blair's Sermons, Vol 1st 471, 2nd, 458, 3rd 434, 4th 445	8 ^{vo}	4	1808
Somerville's Chase and Hobinoll	8 ^{vo}	1	199
Burke on the Sublime and beautiful	8 ^{vo}	1	342
Aikin's Poems	8 ^{vo}	1	136
Butler's Poems, Vol 1st 325, 2nd 300	12 ^{mo}	2	625
Translation of Voltaire's Henirude	12 ^{mo}	1	248

¹²The twelvemo or duodecimo refers to a size of about 5 by 7½ inches; the octavo volumes could be up to 6 by 9½ inches; and the quarto about 9 by 12 inches.

Smollet's continuation of Hume, Vol 1st 475, Vol 2nd 527, 3rd 504, 4th 471, 5th 304	8 ^{vo}	5	2281
Junious Letters	12 ^{mo}	1	344
Quincy's Sermons	8 ^{vo}	1	370
Haley's Works, Vol 1st, 341, 2nd 291, 3rd 312	12 ^{mo}	3	944
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HISTORY RIDES THE WINDS TO COLONIAL CHARLESTON

W. M. Pine*

The phenomenal growth of colonial Charleston from an isolated hideaway on the Ashley River in 1670 to become, within a few decades, the major transoceanic port in the New World was due, in large measure, to its strategic location on the principal trade routes of the times as they crossed back and forth over the North Atlantic. These trade routes actually followed the pathways of a massive clockwise-rotating system of winds and wind-driven currents which literally pushed and ferried the relatively small and unwieldy square-rigged sailing ships of the colonial period around an eight-thousand-mile elliptical track interconnecting the North Atlantic coastlines of Europe, Africa, and North America. Since such square-rigged ships could not sail effectively against the winds and currents, it was their common practice, on leaving European ports for the American colonies, to first sail southwestward, often as far as the Cape Verde Islands, then to steer directly to the west along a parallel of latitude to the Antilles and, finally to head northwestward to the coasts of the Carolinas, a total westbound distance of approximately 5,000 miles.¹ Later, on clearing their colonial ports of call for the homeward passage, they headed northeastward out over the open ocean for a final three thousand miles before making landfall somewhere along the coasts of Europe. Discovered first by Columbus, it soon became apparent to succeeding mariners that they could anticipate favorable following winds and assisting ocean currents along this circuit for most of the year with the exceptions of the hurricane season in the lower latitudes and the winter months over the northeast-bound leg.

Charleston was located just over halfway around this elliptical track at a point where the northeast-blowing winds have their origins and the northeast-flowing ocean currents reach their maximum volumes. In effect, Charleston was positioned at the southwest terminus of an axis which followed the most direct and fastest sailing route of the times between the midatlantic colonial ports and the European ports far to the northeast. As a result of these natural advantages, together with the productivity of its agrarian economy, Charleston soon became not only the third largest port in the colonies, in terms of

* Now retired to Charleston, Mr. Pine at one time was Weather Instructor for the Potomac River Power Squadron and Division XV, District V, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Washington.

¹Hans Leip, *Rivers in the Sea*, trans. H. A. Piehler, K. Kirkness Putnam (New York, 1957), p. 49.