

1830 At the Village of Godome (Africa)

Sunday 5th September. The week past has been dry warm weather and fresh gales. In the afternoon took a long walk toward the beach, in company with Captains Riis and Arisag and Edward Fernandez. Don Francisco went to Whidah, in the morning & Don Nicholas in the afternoon.

Monday 6th This day at 11 A.M. was taken violently sick with fever and cold ague fits, and inclination to vomit.

Don Andrus procured me a Dose Salts that had no effect.

Tuesday 7 Had a very restless night and no better in the morning. Took another strong dose Salts which had the desired effect and had a much more comfortable night. Don Andrus went to Whidah. Have tasted no food since taken.

Wednesday 8 This day in much pain and very weak. Drank a little tea, but could take no nourishment.

Thursday 9 Much better to day. Had a chicken killed and a broth made but do not have much taste.

Friday 10 Felt worse again to day, with chills similar to the fever and ague I experienced on the coast in 1825.

Saturday 11 Much better to day, so that at 1 P.M. was able to start for Whidah, riding in a hammock carried by negroes, (being the manner in which the whites are conveyed from place to place) in company with Captains Riis and Arisag and Edward Fernandez, and arrived at 4 P.M. a distance of 15 miles, having only rested twice, in natural groves, used for halting places, to refresh. Each hammock had 4 negroes, so that they could change and relieve each other. After travelling 2 miles from the village, the country which is tolerably level, appears in the same state that Nature formed it, there being not the least sign of cultivation, altho' the earth would produce every article of necessary food, and much of luxury, with very little labor. But the negroes are too fond of indolence, and care no more than for to eat drink & sleep. The Black Ants, of which I began to give some description under date of the 4th instant and

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had been once costly and splendid. A deep moat or ditch, with a temporary bridge, as at my residence surround all the forts. The English fort is smaller than the other two, and the last erected, but this is also in a state of decay. It is occupied by a Frenchman by birth, by the name of Valington, and his dark colored wife & children, who came here from Boston about 5 years since. He speaks both Spanish and English and gets his meals at our table. In the yard of the fortification on the East side repose in silent dust, the remains of two young men of Salem (Mass), who were brothers and died here, one in 1825 and the other (who brought out a marble slab to be placed over the spot of his interment) in 1826 and was buried by his side. The name of the first was George Washington - aged 19 years.

Alongside of them are the remains of Captain William J. Magee of Providence R.I. No stone marks the spot, but its identical situation was pointed out to me by Mr. Valington, who assisted at his interment. He was generally beloved by the white residents here and by the black population.

Sunday 12 This day at home and at Don Andrus's house making preparations to embark for Havana, which I expect to do, in a day or two, with Don Nicholas Calveras in the Prize Brig Congress, she being ready for sea.

Monday 20 Employed the same as yesterday, and assisting Edward Fernandez, who is also to embark soon for Havana. He has been on the coast five years, and after undergoing several severe sicknesses, has become quite acclimated. I think there would not be a healthier climate in the world than this part of Africa, if it were only cultivated, but as all the productions of the earth, are in their natural state left to die and rot of themselves, the exhalations, arising therefrom, produce on the white people, fever, mortification, and death; while the negroes, like the swine, wallowing in their own filth from the first breath they inhale, instead of sickness, grow strong and fatten on the contaminated air.