

1830

At the Village of Godome. (Africa.)

- Monday August 23 At home this day with Don Andres making a mosquito net of some thin Niger striped cloth, as he has left his, at Whidah. Pleasant and fresh breeze.
- Tuesday 24 At work as yesterday. Don Andres & Capt. Arillas went a shooting and took no game.
- Wednesday 25 Don Francisco returned to Whidah. Went a hunting with Don Andres and Capt. Arillas. Don Andres and myself got nothing and Capt. 5 pigeons.
- Thursday 26 Don Nicholas Galveras and another Sp. gentleman came from Whidah. Employed at home this day.
- Friday 27 Don Andres went to Whidah and the Mate of Capt. Arillas's Schooner came here. At home this day.
- Saturday 28 Edward Fernandez came from Whidah. Since I last saw him, he has been to windward as far as Cape Apollonia. It makes the time pass much more agreeable to have a friend to converse with.
- Sunday 29 The week past has been warm dry weather & blowing fresh gales. Capt. Rio of a Brazilian Schooner came this day. In the afternoon took a walk over the village with the other gentlemen.
- Monday 30 All went to the beach (except Capt. Arillas & myself, who amused ourselves at home).
- Tuesday 31 In the afternoon Edward Fernandez, Don Nicholas Galveras and myself went a shooting in the woods. Having no caps for the percussion lock of my fowling piece, I took an old musket of Don Francisco's that I loaded yesterday. On our return Don Nicholas and Edward being ahead of me, near the village, I thought I would discharge my gun at some small birds on a neighboring tree, when I pulled the trigger and the gun barrel burst near my left hand, blacking it over with the powder, but sustaining no injury. It took about 6 inches of half the circumference of the barrel, and the trap band round the stock and barrel, and I searched but could find no vestige of them. On my arrival

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- at my habitation with the tenants of the shattered musket I found a servant of the Cologeras or Mayor's had come with his master's compliments to know if I was hurt, that he might assist me if necessary, but I had the pleasure of sending him word, that a little soap & water had healed me.
- Wednesday 1st September. Don Andres and Don Francisco returned from Whidah. There are now nine whites of us here, four besides myself that can converse in English which makes it quite agreeable to me.
- Thursday 2 All went to the beach to day, except Edward F. Z. Capt. Arillas's Mate & myself, who remained keeping ship.
- Friday 3 Don Andres, Edward, and myself went pigeon shooting. In our excursion, we went to view a singular Palm Tree having two branching limbs each side of the main one, all of near an equal size. The singularity of it, has induced the negroes to put a fence around its trunk, and to make it a Fetish, being an object of worship, as they say the good Fetish planted it & caused it to grow so different from other Palms.
- Saturday 4 All the whites, except Capt. Arillas's Mate & myself, went to the beach to day. A circumstance happened, while there was only Capt. Arillas, Don Romaulde and myself the whites at the Village, which I omitted to mention in its place, but as it will give some account of the labor and perseverance of the industrious Ants I will now mention it, as being somewhat alone, has brought it to remembrance. About the 12th ult. I walked near 2 A.M. and stepped into the Yard. Immediately after returning to my bed, I felt some kind of insect biting me in every part of my body, and in the hair of my head, and so tormenting, that I had to get up and call the Servant Duam, who soon procured a light and I found myself covered with black Ants. I immediately stripped naked, and ran into the yard, carrying a chair, and had Duam bring me calabashes of water and a comb, with which I freed myself from them.