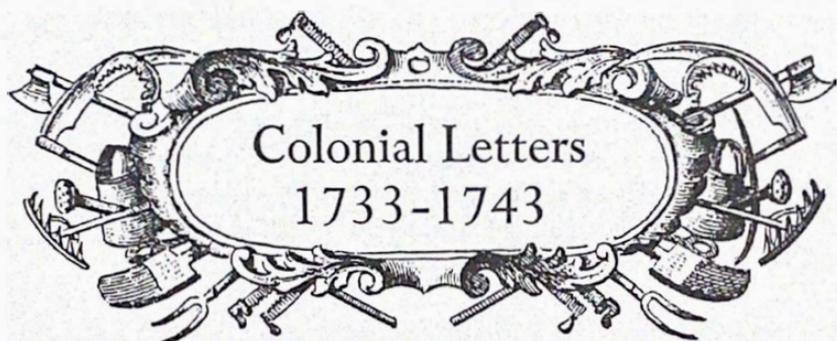


GENERAL
OGLETHORPE'S
GEORGIA



EDITED BY MILLS LANE

VOLUME II

A Beehive Press Book

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THOMAS CAUSTON TO THE TRUSTEES

Savannah

February 19, 1741

Gentlemen:

I am truly sensible that the fundamental reasons for undertaking to establish the colony of Georgia was to apply those balsamic comforts which the afflicted groan for want of and which justice and humanity and zeal for their general welfare could inspire you with.

As Your Honours' endeavours for this end have been very obvious, so have they been equally inimitable by supporting a regular and free road to justice and the exercise of such Christian principles as each member might (agreeable to true religion) in safety and necessary assurance enjoy.

It always has been my endeavours (so far as my poor abilities would admit) both by precept and example to nourish a duty confessing such facts and endeavouring to beat down that Hydra which has long lurked and lately appeared so dreadful and bold as to see their mischievous hope and publish doubts, that these your endeavours shall not have success.

My duty farther leading, I humbly presume to offer the following to Your Honours' consideration, hoping it will be received as

part of my united endeavours with the most chosen of your people, who having a steady view for the welfare of the whole, renounce the private by delivering their free sentiments when the public and true interest (by false amusements) must consequently suffer.

It is notorious that some of the late (if not present) inhabitants of the colony, though well acquainted with the nature of the land and its situation as well for produce as trade and with the reasons for these necessary limitations, which Your Honours from undoubted prudence and due consideration have thought proper basis for the colony to grow on, and under such knowledge desired to become members thereof, have ventured to assert (so contrary to truth) that the colony is wholly barren, incapable of useful produce and not worth the protection of the British Nation, and presume to instruct your wisdom or rather undutifully to prescribe laws for rendering ineffectual some of those necessary restraints, which the common safety not only of this colony but that of our neighbours also do most immediately require.

As the actions of these pretenders to policy and goodness prove it difficult (on the present footing) to ensnare the people, and ruin their posterity by the plausible schemes of trade more dreadful than common usury, and that the design in stirring up unwary people to join them is really to execute what a public enemy might probably wish, so that it is easy to believe that Your Honours (when attacked) will in justice to your good and obedient people effectually disappoint such destructive schemes. Listen (with a compassionate ear) to their true calamities and in humanity break these threatening circles of ruin and find some means so to support their honest endeavours, that they or their posterity may (one day) triumph over their difficulties and thereby display the folly of those who (contrary to their true interest) will obstinately bait the trap designed for their destruction.

It is no venture to say that the colony by its situation is blessed with such a temperate and refreshing air that the health of the inhabitants have been much preserved, when their neighbours (past the power of medicine) have been almost annually afflicted and cut off.

Nature daily furnishes the beholder with variety of fruits or luxurious branches, such as grapes, mulberries, oranges, apples, plums and cherries, sufficiently proving that, if its inhabitants were able to use that skill which the like fruits require to raise them to a proper excellency, these and many others would show forth their virtues in a degree equal to the most delicate of its kind.

Wheat, barley (especially of the Barbary kind), oats, peas, rye, potatoes and turnips may be raised. And experience gives hopes that (by proper culture) they may each be brought to a very useful degree of perfection. And if it is necessary to descend to the common productions of neighbouring plantations and the various fruits, flowers &c. commonly raised in gardens, it is universally known that those raised in this colony are equal to theirs. Experience has also taught that the annual cotton, which is the most proper kind for clothing, and also tobacco may each of them be raised (if the home consumption should require it) of equal goodness to any other growth, that among the various kinds of grass or what is best fit for pasture, clover and black grass, are a natural produce. But as the land is generally light and sandy each of them are (by grassing) liable to be plucked up by the roots, scorched by the severity of the sun or killed by the frosts. Therefore it will not be amiss to mention that I have now growing lucern which takes a deep root, withstands the sun's violence and winter's frost, does afford three mowings and continues green all the winter.

Although the soil is (for the most part) among the present settlements high, dry and sandy, such high land is also intermixed with large tracts of clay, gravel or loam, where its productions will (very probably) in some futurity gratify the labourer's toil. Other parts of it being (at present) a chaos of brooks, creeks, valleys or swamps, most probably occasioned by the natural course of rivers or the overbearing torrent of floods, contain a clay enriched with the treasures those floods have laid up and will doubtless, when drained and duly prepared, strike the accuser dumb by showing spacious tracts for many miles together with a prodigious fruituity.

As this account thus faithfully related (will I hope) sufficiently show that the situation of the colony is healthy and productive of

grain, fruits and herbage, it is humbly submitted if other productions proper for trade (the climate admitting) may not be attended with equal success.

As the colony is well known to be a frontier against two powerful enemies it follows that proper means has been and is necessary for its defense. I therefore doubt not an allowance to say that the town of Savannah and the several contiguous settlements in the Northern division, as also those in the Southern, were formed and designed for the immediate safety of each respectively and the general defense of the whole. Those in the Northern division are the town of Savannah, on the Eastward of which are Tybee, Skidaway and Thunderbolt, as also the settlements made by Mr. Patrick Houston, William Stephens Esquire, Mr. Samuel Mercer, the Reverend Mr. Whitefield, Mr. James Burnside, Mr. Thomas Upton, Mr. Noble Jones, Mr. John Fallowfield, Mr. Henry Parker, Mr. Edward Jenkins and myself. On the Southern parts thereof are Hampstead and Highgate, Stirling and Fort Argyle. And on the Western side are Newington, the lands of Mr. John Amory and Mr. Isaac Young, Senior, also Grantham, Westbrook, Joseph's Town, Abercorn, Ebenezer and Augusta.

That these several towns and settlements have been thus capable of defense and (in all probability) of maintaining their respective possessions will with great submission appear, when it is considered that each of them are under military regulations, whereby every tenth man has commission to train and exercise such other nine as according to his settlement were under his care and that other officers have also commissions to take the general command within their respective wards and districts, whilst at Fort Argyle (under proper fortifications) are lodged a troop of twenty horse under a Captain and Lieutenant. And at Augusta is also another fortification wherein have been garrisoned a Captain, a Lieutenant, Sergeant, Constable and fifteen private men; also another fortification on Savannah River called Pallachocola, lodging a Captain and ten other Rangers. In the Southern division are the town of Frederica on the island Saint Simon's and the town of Darien on the mainland, with many other settlements and garrisons situate

on the several islands and passes judged to require the most immediate security and most proper for defense.

And that such a defense may be thought more practicable, I venture to affirm that in the year 1737, before the town of Augusta was begun or garrison erected, more than 500 men were resident in the Northern division able and willing to bear arms exclusive of the two parties of Rangers. And with the most humble duty submit to Your Honours' particular consideration (in just recommendation of them) if such 500 men had been attacked (being voluntarily in arms for their own defense) would not (very probably) have given as fatal a repulse to any invader as 1000 mercenary soldiers, who were wont to desert or perish by their excessive debauches and move no farther than discipline compels.

That those inhabitants did also give the strongest hope of such a success appears by the remembrance that they several times readily appeared in arms when powerful invaders were approaching and have pursued them to the (then known) limits of the colony obliging their enemies to flee before them. And such certainly was the intrepidity of the people, under the blessed influence of Divine Providence, that such a dread was thereby fixed on the hearts of the enemies as to render all their schemes against the colony of none effect.

Having thus endeavoured to lay before Your Honours the situation of the colony as well respecting the health of the inhabitants, the nature of its productions and the utility of the several settlements with regard to public safety and defense, I beg your attention to such particular reasons as in my poor opinion may (probably) have immediately occasioned the small progress in the cultivation of land. In which it will be proper to take a view of each settlement by itself, because of the variations attending with regard to each other, as the nature of the soil, situation and what is more or less alluring or unavoidable.

The town of Savannah being necessarily built for the immediate residence of the first adventurers, their too early separation on any pretense whatever was thereby prevented and 'twas very early known that thereby His Majesty's subjects in these parts were less

exposed to the frequent incursions of the Spaniards and such parties of the natives as were often bribed to make inroads, murder the inhabitants and rob them of their slaves, crops, cattle &c. The means to effect which good end each adventurer acted as a sawyer, carpenter, smith or hewers of timber to furnish materials, reserving only some few to prepare a plantation of mulberry trees, raise necessary garden herbage and issue stores. And being also formed into a militia, they did the duty of a soldier by ten at a time both night and day, so that (at the first) each man's turn was every fourth night, which injunction (though necessary) consequently prevented the immediate progress in some and laid a foundation for many to lay aside the thoughts of raising food from the ground when their mechanical knowledge thus acquired enabled them to procure the conveniencies they wanted. And I imagine this will cease to be a wonder, when it is also considered (that the town being the common resort of travellers and liable to the frequent visits of the planters and others resident in the province of South Carolina) its inhabitants were either through design or by a natural inquiry early told that it was impossible the productions of food would ever recompense the planters' labour in clearing &c. by white persons.

And I will farther venture to say, because it is well known, that in this beginning of the settlement all the commands were so strictly and necessarily enjoined and so dutifully obeyed that the Honourable Person who commanded justly deserved the applause, love and honour of the British Nation and His Majesty's subjects elsewhere resident. And the adventurers by their industry, obedience and courage might challenge any other body of people who have hitherto in any other place made any other settlement. And with further submission it is an act of the greatest injustice to reproach the indefatigable measures which the Commander thus took. And it is also most absurd to say that the land is barren or not of equal fruitfulness with its neighbours, when its inhabitants were either otherwise employed so naturally tempted to regain necessaries of clothing &c. (by hire or acquired art) which (by time spent in public service) were wanting, or so terrified from the hopes of success in planting and therefore had not tried.

Another reason (which is certainly an impediment to planting or at least to those who have warm inclinations to act in that light for the colony's welfare in opposition to the ensnaring devices of its vowed enemies) is that the tracts of land granted to them (being by lot) agreeable to a plan laid down as sufficient to yield to each other five of them fifty acres, and the land carrying in its kind part far more promising than other for productions, it happened that some of them had land of the worst kind, and therefore chose to lay aside such planting lest the dreaded disappointment should not only prove their misspent time but also give the clamourous an opportunity to be more turbulent. Whilst those who had determined never to plant but on terms of their own making, either by meeting with the like lots or, if their chance was better, they would seem to dislike it or pretend to forget or deny they had ever seen it. And if the well disposed did gain land agreeable to their wishes, their adjoining neighbour had not equal sentiments and therefore was in fact obliged to clear eight acres 'ere he could expect to receive the produce of five. Because otherwise the planted would be overshadowed as not to produce half a crop. [He] was also obliged to make a good fence 'round it by his own labour, when his respective neighbour ought to make a part of it in proportion to what would also enclose his land. And if after these a crop should be raised agreeable to expectation, he was yet at a loss how to bring his crop to market, because no way could (within his power) be made sufficiently passable. And if the willing planter is, with these known obstructions cut off from the promised encouragement thus merited and in no shape supported by bounty, loan or otherwise, nor no manufacture giving any approaching hope, he naturally recounts his charge and ceases to proceed in which he daily loses by.

It is undeniable that the produce of corn &c. often fails to feed the planter's family, much less clothe and defend them in sickness and curable diseases or enable them to sell at an equal price with their neighbours, and therefore certainly a dreadful truth to those who (being ambitious of merit in planting) sacrificed their time and substance therein and are now unavoidably ruined by it and drove by necessity to seek their bread by a fresh adventure.

succeeding inhabitants received by donation or purchase divers cattle. And as the first adventurers were either employed by joint labour in building or not suffered to expose themselves to ranging the woods, wherein they were strangers, and having no enclosures or time to make them, those cattle naturally took to a common range and have since that time wandered. Much time has been spent and many agreements have been made for hunting them together without its desired effect, few people caring or have skill to ride the woods or of ability enough to buy a horse or pay for the trouble of those who do hunt. It is therefore much wanted that some regular authority should oblige such reasonable payment to the hunters for cattle brought home and for some regular determination concerning the claims which may be made on cattle which have for so long season unavoidably ranged. And, in regard many of those cattle are in remote parts and unmarked, they are exposed as a prey to ill-designing people who (possibly) may presume to kill or destroy them. Therefore if the people had any power transmitted to authenticate their agreements having the force of law, it might enable them to procure better success. And if Your Honours would be pleased to declare your opinion what punishment would be proper for those who shall kill or destroy cattle without some public notice or should make wrong claims, in what manner the hunters should be satisfied, and what right the inhabitants of Savannah and other settlements have to the commonage or pasture of their respective cattle, it might encourage their industry and be a means for them to raise in safety such an advantageous increase as may in a short time supply a market.

Far be it from me to suppose that every man who has hitherto chose to pursue sawing, boat service or other labour rather than that of planting would not also unite their endeavours with the planter should such encouragement be granted as may be depended to carry them through their difficulties. And though they may have also received favours equal to those who have planted, necessity by sickness or otherwise perhaps obliged them to seek some immediate gain for their support. But certainly they have never been wanting in their courage in time of danger.

Experience teaches that few designs are so well formed as to admit of no disappointments. So in the case of this settlement, it is too plainly verified that persuasions and fond imaginations rivetted an early opinion that the gain of hire was preferable as being more certain than that of planting. Happy also had it been if those who are bold enough to disquiet the minds of the people by ensnaring schemes and cram their dissuasions to planting on everyone who attempted it had never come into the colony. And when it is known that these are the people so often complained of as prone to contention, idleness and luxury, that were evil mouthed to their benefactors and like drones devouring the bread of the industrious, it is to be hoped that those industrious will not be condemned to suffer with the guilty and that no general infamy will be allowed to pass, whilst any industrious man remains in the Northern division whereby to eclipse their privilege or prevent their hope.

The present state of the town of Savannah is that the inhabitants are more than half gone, within this two years, that the officers civil and military with those who are not yet obliged to perform military duty exceed in number those of them who are to perform such duty as private sentinels. Many doubtless have their particular reasons for leaving the colony. And, though some of them might be spared because of their ill conduct, a far greater number have left it who might have become useful members and planters.

The settlement at Tybee I imagine will be allowed to be an useful settlement, as well in regard to the Light House there erected, as also for the conveniency of the lookout which might have been there kept. It was supplied with three small cannon and one 6-pounder. Its inhabitants were 12 settlers, some of whom had families. It contains good pasturage for cattle and variety of meal for hogs. Each settler was paid 2 Shillings per day for assisting the carpenter who raised the Light House, himself having 5 Shillings per day, which took upwards of two years in framing and raising. They received also provision, and each of them had a cow and calf besides other favours for their further encouragement. Yet nevertheless they neglected to make any improvements, suffered their cattle to run wild and, according to the reigning custom, reported

If this shall be found to be the case of the most dutiful and industrious, I presume to hope that Your Honours will soon cause some means to be executed whereby the planters' labour may be made more tolerable and their benefits equal with those in their adjoining colony.

A beneficial price for mulberry leaves per tree, measure or weight and silk balls per pound would probably be also a help to the planters and encourage the silk manufacture. It might create a strife to excel in the care of feeding silkworms, and by excellence to give such large employ to the present silk winders that they would be more sensible of the advantages they might gain by taking apprentices for instruction in that art, so that succeeding generations might not fail in the practice of it.

A reasonable bounty (agreeable to the value) on lumber fit for merchandise would greatly encourage the planter, because he would have the opportunity of making such lumber at the same time he cleared his land. And the appointing an officer to view, mark and report on oath such lumber might not only protect him from the impositions of the artful trader, but also be a necessary verification that such lumber was exported.

And if the like be granted for raising vines or grapes proper for vintage or making such into wine, or for raising hemp, flax, drugs or other merchandise, which may be thought proper produce for the colony, it would not only add to the support of the planter but also raise the credit of the colony beyond the reach of its most aspiring enemy.

If these encouragements should be thought necessary or anything like it, some time might probably elapse before a market for such lumber can be had or productions raised. I therefore hope it will be no crime to say that some immediate encouragement is necessary to continue the present and advance the planting to greater degree of benefit. Contrariwise the consequence is too dreadful to guess at.

There is yet a farther means necessary for their present and future happiness which, being a matter of Right and Justice, I ought not to omit. The first adventurers soon after their arrival and other

that the island was barren and not fit to live on, when in truth they lived such debauched lives that they beggared themselves, most of them dying of its consequences and the remainder, not having discretion to guide themselves, deserted.

Three other persons have since had leave to settle there, but their improvements are inconsiderable. The Light House is become ruinous. But those who are proper judges say that in such a timber frame, any decayed parts may be taken out and new work supplied, and, though the charge may be great, the building will continue and may at the same time be finished, when contrariwise the loss of it will be much regretted by all vessels coming on that coast.

The settlement on the island of Skidaway is situate on an useful spot for the public safety and immediate advantage, the soil being very fruitful. It was supplied with 7 cannon, and the settlers, being ten, received two years' provisions, a cow and calf each and many other indulgences in sickness &c. All of them together did not at any one time plant more than five acres. There is but one family of these remaining (viz. Thomas Mouse) who, having a very good house built for him as a gift and having license to sell liquors, did in pursuit of the victualling trade credit the settlers, so that being in debt, those who did not die of their debauches fled the colony. Said Mouse in the year 1739 (a bounty of 2 Shillings per bushel on corn to be raised being promised) planted 8 acres, and since has not meddled with planting.

Another part of this island was possessed by the persons belonging to the Carolina scout boat, the same being also stationed there. They brought into tillage about 12 acres of land with agreeable success. This land still continues in the hands of one of those who assisted to clear it, and in the year 1739 was also planted, since which nothing has been attempted of that kind.

William Ewen, once in Your Honours' service, has also a settlement on the island. He purchased cattle and servants, built habitations and cleared, fenced and planted about six acres of land. The great expense and disappointments in not receiving his right to the promised bounty for corn raised in the year 1739 obliged him to part with his servants and cease planting for the present.

The cows, calves and hogs which were a gift both here and at Tybee are become a wild herd, and I fear are the common game of travellers.

The settlement at Thunderbolt in its situation was as useful for public safety as private property. They were allowed 5 small cannon and one 6-pounder with ammunition and many assistances towards erecting the fortifications. Mr. Robert Lacy at first gave hopes that he would make an agreeable progress in planting and making potash. But those hopes soon vanished, he being led to assert that nothing would do but by the use of Negroes and therefore employed his servants at sawing or hire. He obtained the command at Augusta and was sent agent to the Cherokee Indians, and he entered his servants on the Establishment of the garrison. He died in the year 1738 leaving his land under the appearance of a wilderness.

Philip Bishop and Joseph Hetherington made no remarkable progress in their improvements farther than a dwelling house for each, which are now ruinous. Under pretense of planting they obtained many times credit at the Stores, but amongst other disorders they were accused of felony in stealing cattle and convicted in two several indictments. They broke jail and fled to Carolina. Theophilus Hetherington married the Widow Lacy and being a busy enemy to the colony soon left it and went with his wife to Charles Town, where she is since dead. So that this whole settlement is become vacated by all its first inhabitants.

Two men who were once Mr. Lacy's servants pretend to get their living by sawing there. They claim possession in the name and right of Theophilus Hetherington and (possibly), should they live to see the present labour of planting made so easy as to equal that of South Carolina, might (by a grant) become better settlers than the first have proved.

Mr. Patrick Houston, having began a farm on a branch of the River Vernon in the year 1736, having been supported therein by the public Store and many other favours from General Oglethorpe, has built convenient habitations for himself and servants and cleared and planted about 30 acres of his land and so fenced his

whole tract, as to prevent any injury from the common range. His land may be termed of the best kind and has afforded reasonable crops. But having found a more advantageous living, his plantation is much neglected, and it is very evident that, notwithstanding all assistance and success in crops, he has much increased his debts.

Near to Mr. Houston's is a tract of land which in the year 1739 was possessed by William Stephens Esquire and Samuel Mercer. There is no doubt, if they pursue their usual industry and withstand the losses which everyone at present sustain by planting these intended farms as yet of short standing, [they] will in due time show forth the known skill of the owners.

The Reverend Mr. Whitefield possesses a tract of land, whereon in the year 1739 he began what is at present called the Orphan House with several other houses (no doubt) agreeable to his purpose. The Orphan House has an handsome appearance and all the buildings are near finished. The land, which is (at present) cleared, will afford convenient gardens and yards containing about ten acres, exclusive of an avenue about 50 yards broad and half a mile in length which at present is only opened by the fall of the trees. The whole is well defended with a good fence, and he has purchased a considerable stock of cattle. He has in a great measure defrayed the expense of making a road to Savannah for about 11 miles wherein is 12 bridges. The employ which many inhabitants have had on this occasion has certainly prevented many from leaving the colony, and the hopes of its continuance should prevent murmurs about those religious matters which few have ('tis feared) judgment or principle enough to understand as they ought, especially if they would but duly remember that Your Honours are their common earthly parent and will suffer no wrong to be done them.

Mr. James Burnside in the year 1737 entered on land heretofore called Rotten Possum and purchased a stock of cattle. He built habitations for his family and pursued planting 'till the year 1739. His success being very bad and becoming a disciple of Mr. Whitefield, [he] was employed in overseeing the works of the Orphan House (though he received many favours from General Oglethorpe

to enable his continuance on his land). He has left it and disposed of his cattle and premises to Mr. Whitefield and now complains very much of his losses in attempting to live by planting.

In the year 1740 Mr. Thomas Upton acquired the possession of land heretofore called All Honey, he has made several visits with workmen and has begun to set up huts, but alarms of war and various incidents has often stopped his proceedings, and indeed it is very difficult to guess what may be expected.

Another tract of land is possessed by Mr. Noble Jones, Mr. John Fallowfield and Mr. Henry Parker, who all entered in the year 1736.

The first has erected what very justly (when finished) may be called a good house with convenient out-houses for servants, cattle &c. He has also fenced and brought into tillage about 14 acres of land. He appears very industrious, the land is of the best kind and has produced very well. He is favoured with a small military employ, by the command of a small fort near his house, where is stationed a boat also under his command, with 12 men, to serve in boat and garrison.

Mr. John Fallowfield has built necessary cover for his family, has cleared about eight acres, but having little success in planting he has left it and lives by his allowance as Bailiff of Savannah and fees for Naval Officer.

Mr. Henry Parker has built a good house and is near finished that and other conveniencies. He planted about 4 acres in the year 1737. His former endeavours on his town farm is a proof that he wants neither skill nor inclination. But a losing account on the cease of the bounty and other support for planting, he seems to have laid aside the present thoughts of planting. His town farm is returning to a wilderness, no progress is made for it on his new farm worth notice, and he supports his family at daily loss by the allowance as First Bailiff.

Mr. Edward Jenkins took possession (without any leave) in the year 1738 on part of Wilmington Island. He purchased divers cattle, built a little house and planted about eight acres of land. For reasons best known to himself (though he kept a public house and got

money) his cattle are sold and he has left the colony and entered upon business at Charles Town.

The remaining tract of land mentioned on the East side of the town of Savannah is that granted to myself but, my too much indulged enemies having loaded me and my improvements with the fruits of envy, I may (perhaps) be thought guilty of partiality should I (on this occasion) relate any particulars. I too well know (by Your Honours' resentments) that my adversaries have prevailed, otherwise those who act (as they pretend) by your authority would not dare to act unjustly by me and contrive means to starve me. Such actions must consequently change my usual thoughts, when no other remedy is left but the laws of the mother country. I am a daily loser notwithstanding all my endeavours and necessity from those losses and unjust treatment compels me to lessen my stock of cattle for support. I am unjustly deprived of all benefit, my mulberry plantation ruined, and all hopes of benefit thereby prevented. In the year 1739 I planted 50 acres of land and raised as much corn as according to a promised bounty amounted to £50, which was paid to the generality of them who planted, or rather to those whom Mr. Thomas Jones was pleased to favour. But as I am not of the number, I only obtained £5 on account and am insulted by him if I offer to speak to him. This disappointment and the extra expense I was at to obtain it, resolving to show forth my zeal for the general good, obliges [me] to lament that ever I began a farm and to use my endeavours to quit it with as little loss as I can and seek my bread in another place.

The land belonging to Hampstead and Highgate are for the greatest part pine land and the remainder low, wet and spongy of a rich loamy nature, and doubtless, if the settlers are ever able to clear grub and drain those lands, their moisture with a proper tillage would render it surprisingly fruitful. But so the truth is, that when springs are in reality, as is here, the drainings of the high pine land and passing through a hungry sand chills everything that is planted except rice, 'till such culture prevents it.

Those at Hampstead have shown their industry with very little success, and, though they have been well supported but tired with

their experiments on land so little fruitful, they have all left it but one man, who is a Switzer and having some cattle is in hopes of better things.

The inhabitants of Highgate have not (for the generality) been wanting in their industry. Some of them, being quite dispirited by disappointments in planting and ashamed to continue under the support of the public Store, left their settlements to seek other labour. Those who continue are two and, having genius for gardening, have by a proper support raised good garden ware and brought their goods almost every day on foot to sell at Savannah, but I fear they begin to despair, support being lost, having already declared they cannot hold it. And I am told they are frequently attacked with false tales.

Messieurs Sterling and others in the year 1734 began a settlement on the South side of the River Ogeechee with divers servants. They were assisted with a credit from Your Honours' Store. They built necessary habitations and planted upwards of 60 acres. Their land was esteemed good, and they received agreeable crops. They continued such planting 'till the year 1736, were paid for what they could spare, and was fetched from their land at Your Honours' charge, and they were also paid (as bounty) one Shilling per bushel for corn and peas, and six Pence for potatoes. But they say they have lost by the account, and they have quitted the colony, some being also dead.

Fort Argyle is a garrison for the lodge of 20 Rangers under a Captain and Lieutenant. There was at first 10 freeholders under a Tythingman and allowed support equal to other settlements.

They had no success in planting and very probably gave too willing an ear to an opinion that nothing but slaves could raise anything worthy of the labour. They either left their settlements or entered into the troop. The fort is situate near the common fording place, used by the Creek Indians &c., from their Nation to Savannah or Carolina, which is called the Lower Path. The troop was broke in the year 1738, but, as its situation is of great consequence, three persons keep possession, and it is to be hoped such another troop will be thought proper to answer the end of the former.

Agreeable to directions from General Oglethorpe a village was settled called Newington in the year 1737, on the Western road within 4 miles of Savannah, five of which settlers had been servants and had behaved well. They received support at the beginning, as also tools and a boat, having a water passage which came pretty near them. They were promised cattle agreeable to Your Honours' orders. They were many times attacked by the enemies to the colony and closely persuaded to quit their land, but, persuasions not succeeding, they were called Caustonians. They continued 'till the end of the year 1738, having made covering and the land showing good hopes of an agreeable fertility. They applied for further support and, being denied by Mr. Thomas Jones, they therefore left their settlement and all (but one) have left the colony or are dead.

Mr. John Amory began to improve a piece of land agreeable to his grant near adjoining to Newington. It is reported he planted 8 acres. He received a credit agreeable to your orders, which being expended in the later end of the year 1738, he applied to Mr. Thomas Jones and, being denied farther credit, he quitted his land and the colony.

Mr. Isaac Young Senior in the year 1737 had also land agreeable to his grant and his own choice, surveyed and set out adjoining to Mr. Amory. He suffered himself to be persuaded against planting, and, when he was called upon, having received a credit, to know what progress he had made, he denied that such land was set out and, if I mistake not, made oath at a meeting of a pretended Grand Jury, that he was denied any land at all (or to that purpose) though in a very small time, Mr. Gibbs arriving, was directed to settle also by them. When Isaac Young threatened to sue him and seize any crop he should raise, alleging the ground to be his, though he well knew to the contrary. The meaning of which, I imagine, was that he wanted to have his grant enlarged. He left the colony in the year 1739, and himself and most of his family are dead.

The several settlements which are mentioned by the name of Grantham are those which are granted to Joseph Watson, John Musgrove, Robert Williams and brothers.

Mr. Watson erected the frame of a good house in the year 1734, and cleared near 7 acres of land, some part of which he planted with success. He purchased a few cattle and seemed to give hopes that a well-settled farm might be expected. But, falling unhappily into disputes with his partner Musgrove with whom he had been admitted to be a joint trader to the Indians near Savannah, he committed divers outrages, drank so much with an eminent Indian that the Indian died of the debauch and a murder also ensued by another of his disorders. So that 'twas difficult to determine if he was in his senses. He was justly prosecuted for these offenses and, being found guilty, was, as well for his own preservation from Indian resentment as public safety, committed to a close confinement in his own lodgings within the town, which commitment was soon after confirmed by Your Honours and a severe charge on the Magistrates for his secure keeping, with your declaration that a charge of murder should be laid against him and a special commission sent to try him hereon. Such imprisonment was continued 'till the year 1737 when your orders directed that the Magistrates should give judgment on the said verdict against him and he (being in his senses) might be admitted to bail. All his improvements (in the meantime) became ruinous, are of no value, and he has left the colony.

Mr. Musgrove was a trader to the same Indians and dwelt near the place where Savannah now stands. At the arrival of the first adventurers, he obtained this other settlement whereby to keep a cowpen, and there built a good house. He being dead, his widow married John Mathews who planted (in good order) 40 acres. He has much increased his stock of cattle and continues the Indian trade. Since the year 1739 he has not planted anything considerable. He is lately appointed commander of a troop of Rangers.

Mr. Robert Williams and company took possession of their land in the year 1736 and built several small houses and stores for himself and servants and goods. They planted and fenced about 40 acres. They made several experiments with very little success. They endeavoured to carry on a lumber trade and loaded three ships and one sloop. How far their expectations might be raised on their com-

ing to the colony is best known to themselves. But it is certain they frequently declared themselves disappointed and losers both by planting and trade. In this temper they never ceased to increase discord, doubts and unhappy dislikes to the country in the minds of everyone who attempted planting, with severe reflections on Your Honours and everyone who executed your commands. They purchased divers cattle and, having in the year 1740 left the colony, directed Mr. Mathews to take care of land and stock.

Westbrook at first contained only a grant to Walter Augustine and company, since which Sir Francis Bathurst arrived and settled next to said Augustine.

Mr. Augustine built necessary covering and planted with good success about 12 acres. Therefore, in regard to such industry and his endeavours in erecting a sawmill, he received many assistances from Your Honours' Stores. It was generally expected his sawmill would have succeeded, it having sawed a considerable quantity of boards &c. But whether he was deluded by the enemies to the colony, threatened by those he was indebted to or being Ankt [sic] with Jews that were too sharp for him, or which prevailed most is not known by me. But 'tis certain that some if not all prevailed so that he precipitately left the colony, though his support was continued, and has since refused to return.

Sir Francis Bathurst built convenient habitations and planted ten acres of land. He had great losses by servants' sickness &c. which very much increased his expense. The land is fruitful. Two ladies and himself being dead, his children ceased planting or any real care of the land under the common pretense to Negroes. They soon consumed every little thing they could get. His son Robert, being under age, was to succeed to the land, aged about 16 years. Francis Peirce, a gardener, married one of his daughters and was accused before me of selling two servants which had been supplied Sir Francis on credit. The sale was declared void, and other matters of the like nature appearing, he was bound over in his own recognizance for wasting the goods of an infant (R. Bathurst). But as the lad thought himself too old to want advice, though in fact too weak as well as young to avoid the fawning pretensions of those

who made a prey of him, and, though he was promised necessary support on credit if he would be diligent in those cultivations of land which his father had began and used with the utmost tenderness, he was obstinate in his humour, preferred the fatal advice of his pretended friends, left the colony with said Peirce and is since murdered in South Carolina by the insurrection of Negroes.

Among the several settlements proposed to be made at Joseph's Town, only Mr. Patrick Mackay and Mr. John Cuthbert have made any progress. The former began a good house, which is now much decayed, he having since made a large plantation with about 12 Negroes on the Carolina side of the River Savannah. He planted at Joseph's Town about 30 acres for two years, since which it has been neglected, though some part or other is planted every year by servants who keep possession and eat more than they raise.

Mr. John Cuthbert, though a much later inhabitant, has made a greater progress. He has built convenient habitations and cover for cattle &c., planted about 30 acres. He had the command of a troop of Rangers, and, those affairs calling him to Charles Town, he there died of an epidemical distemper. His sister succeeds to his land, is since married to Mr. Patrick Graham of Savannah, surgeon, who is very industrious and endeavours to improve the land.

The village of Abercorn is situate on a creek of the same name, once famous for a magazine of corn &c. kept there by Indians in their wars on the English. It contains a loamy soil mixed with gravel towards the rivers, the remainder, producing much cane, is supposed to be of a clay or something like it equally good.

As the inhabitants were out-settlers, they received innumerable indulgences. They often pretended to work on their land but as often forfeited their promise. Very few did anything worth notice in the space of 5 or 6 years. The whole body together made an opening in the wood to the extent of twenty acres but did not (at any one time) plant more than 12 acres. Richard Hughes, a smith, and Robert Bunyan, a carpenter, seemed to be the most industrious. But these with the rest, being also overpowered by the accustomed delusions, left the settlement and the colony.

The town of Ebenezer is wholly inhabited by Salzburgers. They

from the beginning have submitted to the immediate advice of their good ministers and have united their endeavours by joint labour.

Their first settlement was on the common path from the most usual ferry, whereby travellers passed by land from South Carolina to these parts, and which also near this place meets the path from Fort Argyle and the Creek Nation. The land about the town was generally pine land and consequently less productive of grain in its own nature. It is well watered by various brooks, near which large pastures of cane are so conveniently mixed that they afford their cattle a delicious plenty. Their cattle thrive and doubtless a continuance of industry must from such land have raised fodder for them when brought home and thereby sufficient manure for their upper land. But these people were so closely attacked by the enemies of the colony as not enduring the prospect of what such industry might produce, that an uneasiness arose and no arguments could prevent their breach of patience and incessant applications for the removal of the town to the side of the River Savannah although the same land now possessed would have fallen into the first township.

In the new town they continue their joint labour to great advantage far superior to anything in the colony. They have built a mill to make a sort of meal of their Indian corn and have several commodious buildings. They have planted upwards of 200 acres with good success and by their joint labour plant the most promising spots only.

Those people certainly deserve applause as well for their industry, as also obedience and peaceable behaviour having not yet given the civil magistrates any material trouble. And though their support has been long and expensive, whereby they have passed through their difficulties with some cheerfulness, they have certainly showed forth all the returns which industry and good husbandry can produce.

Where the town of Ebenezer was first intended there is a cow pen kept on Your Honours' account. Two hundred head of cattle had been long since delivered to the care of the keeper. He was always complaining for assistance in horses and men, concerning which I

was obliged to exceed Your Honours' orders. I am sensible that he was not gratified in all he asked. And as I could never get a just account of the increase, I am apt to think that no person is able to give any new guess what such increase may extend to, because the keeper continues his uncertain measures.

There is also at the same place a sawmill on Your Honours' account. The erecting thereof took two years' time to finish. It sawed about 1000 foot of plank per day, and was supposed to be very secure and well done. But by the rising of the waters, looseness of the soil or some other such cause, the waters made a breach, part of the mill is overset and the mill is rendered useless.

The town of Augusta must be allowed to be of singular service to the colony in general as also for the commodiousness and safety of the traders to the several Indian Nations within or contiguous to the colony, and the safety of the merchandises necessary for such trade and the gaining immediate intelligence of what may happen to be in motion either by friends or enemies. It undoubtedly raises its own reputation, so unjustly impeached, gives daily tokens of its plentiful productions, and the whole is fully proved in that all the inhabitants which dwelt on the Carolina side of the river, called New Windsor or Fort Moore, are removed from thence and are become inhabitants of the town and have removed their goods. As to the productions, although the land at Savannah and contiguous settlements do not produce more (on an average) than ten bushels an acre, the land about this town produces sixty bushels on an acre or thereabouts. There is a garrison kept with a proper fortification, wherein was a Captain, a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, a Constable and 15 private men. Several houses are built for the town, and many of the inhabitants have purchased large stocks of cattle and made considerable improvements. But it is generally known that as they live remote from the town of Savannah where the seat of justice is supposed to be maintained, they have little regard to the act against Negroes or other laws and in fact perform all their planting by slaves.

The Southern settlements being each of them as so many garrisons, the inhabitants of Frederica and Darien have had their share

of military alarms and without doubt much of their time has been also spent therein. Those of Frederica have made no progress in their land worthy a relation, the former attempts being returned to their natural order, except some small gardens, so that it might be justly said the inhabitants are no ways inclined to planting.

The settlers at the Darien for the two first years gave very visible hope of their desire to improve their land by joint labour and according planted about 200 acres in one field. But the small productions and loss by such labour (the usual support ceasing) led them to quit their progress in planting. Most of them went to the siege of Saint Augustine, where the generality of them were either killed or taken prisoners. So that the town being almost depopulated of its first inhabitants, the remaining widows and broken families are a melancholy object. And many of the inhabitants both here and at Frederica have left the colony.

A settlement was formed by William Horton Esquire on Jekyll Island where he built a house, kept a stock of cattle and had ten servants supported by the Store. But declaring the labour was vain he set his servants to hire.

Captain James Gascoigne and several officers who have and do bear military employ built themselves houses and keep cattle, which are situate according to the command they bear and are quitted or held as he continues in or is removed from his command.

His Majesty's regiment of foot have their headquarters at Saint Simon's Island, whilst the remainder, being in proper bodies, form garrisons on such other islands and passes most immediately yielding public security and defense.

Having thus also related the beginning, progress and present circumstances of the several settlements and set forth some of those reasons which have occasioned the neglect of planting and of the inhabitants' departure from the colony, I beg your patience while I add a farther reason for such departure, which I humbly conceive each well-wisher ought not to conceal.

It is notorious that Mr. Thomas Jones has obliged many of the debtors to Your Honours' Stores (as his humour without any regard to humanity pleased) to make immediate payment, by stop-

ping of what they earned in public service, though at the same time he knew they wanted bread. He also refuses (through the same humour) to pay what is justly due to the people, though it is well known he is possessed not only of stores but also cash sufficient to prevent any complaint of that kind and perhaps often repeated petitions. He will declare that the stores which belonged to Your Honours are now the property of William Stephens Esquire and himself and as such will either deliver goods and take receipts as cash or pay cash on an unreasonable discount, an instance of which will appear by the copy of an affidavit herewith enclosed.

As Your Honours did not think proper that the issues of remaining stores should continue for other use than paying the just demands then owing to the creditors, consequently all thoughts of former support must likewise discontinue. Therefore, as such orders gave a chill to the peoples' expectations and progress, they reasonably imagined an indulgence of time for what they owed would be allowed, seeing that 'till some way of living was found whereby to spare it such severity was directly starving them.

As my own immediate interest in the colony is (at least) equal with others, I had reason to expect that when your Secretary received your orders to transmit a state of the colony upon the oaths of its inhabitants, he would have thought me worthy to have joined in it. But as he has been pleased to call and consult only those who dare not contradict what he says is proper for them, I hope I shall not be blamed for this attempt. I chose to lay aside the thoughts of troubling Your Honours with the consequences of such conduct in your Secretary, well knowing it must aggravate the multitude of mistakes which cannot be prevented 'till Your Honours by proper channels are informed and shall thereby judge of the causes thereof.

My wishes and inclination ever directing to act for the interest of the colony free from partiality or party opinion, I beg leave to say that these my endeavours candidly received I may be led to imagine that the face of affairs may in some measure recover its clouded aspect. Most humbly therefore, depending on Your Honours' determination on these and what else of this kind may be laid

before you, I subscribe that I am with my best endeavours, Your
Honours' most dutiful servant.