

# John Clarkson. Papers, 1785-1853

(HIL-MICL FC LFR .C5J6P3)

## Volume IV, Private journal, 7 March – 21 April

\*This notebook was evidently owned by the surgeon of the Sierra Leone colony, Mr. Taylor, 1791-1792.

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Wednesday 7 March

Went on shore this afternoon for the first time. – The country very mountainous and rocky, - the Stratum A lava containing a considerable portion of iron. The highest hill which appears to be about 8 miles distant, is in the shape of a cone; tis probable it may be an extinguished volcano. – The settlement if it can be already call'd such is situated upon an eminence near the beach, and exposed to the sea breezes which regularly takes place about 10 or 11 o'clock every morning. – The Black settlers are now clearing the ground with the utmost expedition to erect temporary huts. – The whole face of the country covered with Wood; some of the trees are very large, and I dare venture to say will here after afford good timber. – It abounds every where in low shrubs or underwood, which renders it extremely difficult to penetrate into the country. -- The [?] extremely good and well tasted. – Took a shore walk this evening into the woods, endeavouring to make my way to a Palm tree, heard an extraordinary rustle among the underwood which occasioned me to make a very precipitate retreat. – One of the natives came to see us, upon enquiry was told that she was a Queen, and tho her husband had been some [time] dead she still retain'd considerable authority over the natives, and enjoy'd peculiar privileges. – Trust[ing] myself alone in a canoe with six of the natives to carry me on board the Lucretia. – their demands for this service were very extravagant – gave them a bottle of rum, which did not however perfectly satisfy

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them. ---Slept on board the Lucretia.

Thursday

Went on shore this morning. – took a walk up into the woods, but the weather being so extremely hot and sultry; I was under the necessity of returning much sooner than I intended, -- in this excursion climbing up a tree to pluck some of the blossom, was attacked from every branch by an innumerable quantity of large ants, some of whom getting into my hair stung me very severely. I was in consequence of this, oblig'd to leave my purpose unfinished. – This forenoon took a walk so far as King Jemmy's town, about a musquet shot distant from the settlement. The King received me with much civility. I found him in bed indisposed with a fever, he however soon got up, dress'd himself according to the English fashion, and conversed with me in tolerable good English. – The usual dress of the natives is a small piece of cotton cloth fastened round the waist and brought between the legs, Some times the men will wear a loose kind of shirt over the[m]selves[?] but the women go almost naked. – The town consists of about 40 or 50 huts, irregularly placed, and interspersed with Palm, Banana, Plantain, Orange, Lime, Paw Paw, and Cola trees which in a great measure serve the natives with food. – The houses are built in a circular

form, and have a pyramidal roof. – the outer stakes which form them are wattled together by smaller twigs and afterwards plastered inside and out with mud; the roof or eave of the house projects

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about 2 or 3 feet beyond the sides, forming a pleasant shade under which the natives can sit without being exposed to the scorching heat of the sun. – To each of these houses there are two doors, which placed exactly opposite to each other; the space in the inside is [never?] divided into compartments. – Drank Grog with King Jemmy without my apprehension of being poison'd, which I had been told to guard against. – return'd and dined on shore. – made a second attempt this evening to penetrate a short way into the woods, found a variety of unknown plants bearing fruit. – could not divest myself entirely of fear. – The Morning star arrived in the river this afternoon. – Slept on board the Lucretia.

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Went on shore this afternoon. – One of the natives a woman of a very pleasing countenance expressing her apprehensions that our design was to make their nation our dependants, and deprive them of their possessions was told that his countrymen ought to consider us as their best friends, and would always remain perfectly secure under our protection. No arguments however were sufficient to convince her. “These great guns” [said?] she setting her foot upon me which lay upon the ground “you White men bring here to take my poor country”

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

Took the oaths and my seat as a member of the council. – Mr. Clarkson did the same as Superintendent or Governor. – Dr. Bell

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very much indisposed on board the Harpy, went to see him, - his complaints, Epilepsy. – The Felicity arrived. All the Company's Officers and Captains of the American vessels dined together on shore. – Mr. Elliot a black man dined with us; he was born I believe in England, but coming some few years back to Sierra Leone has since married King Nambaino's daughter, - he appears to an agreeable, genteel, sensible man, and professes a friendship for the Company. -- \*N:B: King Nambaino was the person from whom the Company purchased a considerable tract of land for colonisation, he is a powerful Prince, and has several tributary Kings under him, who govern particular districts. – King Jemmy is one of them. – Slept in the Lucretia.

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

Attended divine service on shore this morning. – Mr. Gilbert our clergyman delivered a very excellent discourse, a serious exhortation to the free blacks very applicable to their present situation and future prospect. Text verse 1st of Psalm 127<sup>th</sup>. – An additional prayer was added for the Superintendent and Council. X After dinner walk'd up alone and unarm'd towards the Old settlement, distant about 5 miles, - pass'd over several spots of ground destitute of trees and thinly covered with grass, the soil in these places not above an inch in depth. – other spots I observed was covered with grass at least 10 feet high. – The Stratum Lava. – after walking 2 or 3 miles came to place where the natives had set fire to the grass, - it was then burning with

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inconceivable fury, destroying every thing before it, and I believe was upwards of a mile in extent. – X Saw two or three natives cutting wood, - endeavoured to pass them unnoticed but could not, a tall ill looking man came following after me with a bill hook in his hand, observing this, thought it best to meet him in as friendly a manner as possible. – enquired of him the road to the Old settlement – pursued a path which he pointed out to me for about a mile till I lost the track. – endeavoured then to return home but in a short time lost my road a second time having forgot to make the necessary observations as I came. – Wandered about a considerable time in various directions in search of a path to take me out of the wood but in vain; it was now growing dusk, and I had several miles to walk before I could get to the [?] settlement, - looking out for a tree which I might climb and remain secure for the night against the wild beasts, which now were [making?] a horrid [?] on every side of me, I fortunately perceiv'd a path, which pursuing led me to a town belonging to the natives. –bargain'd with one of them to conduct me to our settlement for a bottle of Rum and some biscuit – preparing to set off, by great good luck 4 or [5?] of our settlers came in to the town. – return'd with them, but the difficulties we met with in the Journey, particularly in passing a deep valley occasioned me very much to regret not passing the night among the natives. – The excessive noise made by the Bull frogs

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at the beach every night when we put off from the shore exceeds in my opinion the noise of the surf which is of itself very considerable.

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

One of the natives came to claim the performance of my promise, viz a bottle of rum etc. Mem: to be slow in making promises to the natives but when once made, strictly to adhere to them.

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Took a walk with Mr. Cocks, and some native females to King Jemmy's town. – meeting with some obstruction from two rivulets we had to pass, was conveyed over them on the back of one of these women. – King Jemmy appear'd glad to see us, presented him with a couple of bottles of wine – [returned?] after passing about an hour with him. – Supper on board the Harpy. Dr. Bell expired in an adjoining apartment during supper. – had the body soon afterwards removed upon deck, and the place well fumigated.

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

As a mark of respect for Dr Bell [considering?] him as one of the members of the Council, all vessels lower'd their flags half mast. – about noon the Corps put off from the ship and minute guns were fired till it was landed. – Word brought from the Harpy that an accident had happened to one of the sailors. – repair'd immediately on board, examining the man, found he had entirely lost his hand, the bones of the carpus were remaining but

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detached from each other; the Radius was fractured obliquely about 3 inches from its lower extremity and the Ulna about 4 inches higher up; the muscular parts, and integuments were lacerated the whole length of the forearm down to the bone. – This accident happened from one of the guns hanging fire, upon reloading it without stopping the [?] [hole?] it went off. – Amputated the arm above the Cubit, the

man bearing the operation with great fortitude. – his name Thos Thomas. Dr. Bells funeral was in the mean time solemnized on shore. The military with their Arms reversed immediately proceeded the Bier, after which followed the gentlemen of Council two and two; arrived at the Grave the soldiers opened to the right and left to let the corps pass; and rested on their Arms during the time the service was perform'd the body being then deposited, three [vollsies?] were fired over the grave which concluded the solemnity.

#### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

Queen Nambaino and two Princesses called here this afternoon. – The Catherine Brig from England with provisions, suspected to be lost. – A French Ship from Bordeaux, bound to Angola for slaves put into this river for [water?]. Supp'd on board the Amy. The French Captain there. – Thermometer in the shade at noon 89 – Nineteen sail of vessels now in the river.

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

Queen Nambaino and Princesses call'd this forenoon at the settlement. – About 11 o'clock

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The Thermometer in the shade was 93, in the sun 113. – Excessive hot weather. – Mr. Clarkson gave a dinner on shore to the company's officers. One of the dishes a green turtle weighing 16 pounds. – On board the Amy is a Turtle of the Loggerhead species weighing [?] pounds. – The number of sick on shore very considerable; principal diseases Fever & Dysentery. – Kill'd a beautiful yet very destructive snake about 4 feet in length, striped longitudinally with a black or dark colour'd streaks, called a [vilband?] snake, - before it was kill'd it bit a dog which died soon afterwards. – Other snakes of different species seen today. – Slept this night on shore for the first time.

#### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March

The natives, both male & female, flock every day to the settlement in great numbers, bringing with them such fruit as they find in the woods, which principally consists of Anana's, Banana's, Plantains, Limes, Oranges, Cassada, etc. these they exchanged for Biscuit, Beef, Soap and Spirits which I am [sorry?] to observe are ordered from the store in the [p?] [p?] – X They are of the Timmany [may be referring to the Temne?] nation and upon the whole I think the females may be considered as really handsome; indeed I have now been so much accustomed to people of this complexion that I can see as much beauty in Timmany negro as I have formerly done in my own country women. X Thermometer in shade 94 in the sun 114.

#### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

Attended divine service this forenoon.

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Saw a native X with a small sack full of Gum Copal which he had collected upon the mountains, sent him down to the tent that it might be purchased. – Ridiculous story of the magnetic effects of Sierra Leone mountains. – One of the Soldiers under confinement made his escape this evening after robbing his companions to a considerable amount.

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

The Soldier above mentioned, enquiring at King Jemmy's town, the road to the Banana's Isles was taken up on suspicion and conveyed back to the settlement, where he was ordered to be more closely confined. – X Went this forenoon to K. Jemmy's town, and again in the afternoon; attempting to return home in the evening, found it was high water, which prevented me from passing along the shore, and being [yet?] ignorant of the road through the woods, was under the necessity of taking up my lodgings for the night with the natives. Was treated by them with great civility and attention. My confidence in them very great. – During the time I was conversing with K. Jemmy and his wives, a large Leopard came into the town, [?] upon a Newfoundland dog, and was carrying him off, when the people alarmed by the noise which the dog made, and suspecting the cause, ran out to his assistance; the Leopard finding himself closely pursued, let go his hold and escaped into the woods. Mem: Whenever I go into the woods, especially in the evening, to carry with me a Pistol or Dirk in like manner as the natives. – Dined with Queen Nambaino.

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#### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Rested better than I could have suspected. – About 11 o'clock return'd to the settlement. – Sat in the Council. – King Jemmy previous to my leaving his house desired me to obtain for him if possible one of his wives who had been kidnapped and carried on board a French Ship, some months ago, which ship was now return'd into the river. – this afternoon the Catherine provision Brig. from England arrived. Mr. Watt set out upon an expedition into the mountains for a few days this morning.

#### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>

Punish'd the Soldier with 100 lashes. The Queen drank tea with us. – his Majesty detected in stealing a silver spoon, which was taken from her bosom where she conceal'd it.

#### Thursday 22d March

This morning soon after day break, a large Leopard came into the settlement and entered into a hut belonging to Arthur Bowler, himself and family being in bed; the man having nothing to defend himself jump'd up and shouted as loud as he could this had the desired effect, the Leopard immediately turn'd tail and ran with great swiftness into the woods. – Am much afraid that some of the children belonging to the Settlers will some time or other be carried off by these matters; they ought not to be suffered to leave the huts early in the morning and [?] in the dusk of the evening. – Am uncommon contest between a Dog & a Leopard related to me

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#### Friday 23d

Went to King Jemmy's town. – their mode of spinning.

#### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>

Went to King Jemmy's town, at the same time took with me a fowling piece, to shoot whatever game might come in my way; took a tour through the woods for this purpose.

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

Attended Divine service, -- receiv'd the Sacrament for the first time. -- Mr. Peppard accompanied me this afternoon to King Jemmy's town.

#### Monday 26<sup>th</sup>

Went to King Jemmy's town this forenoon; kill'd a brown coloured snake near the place, which I had nearly trod upon, the natives inform'd me it was extremely venomous, and that its bite would have proved fatal in the course of a few minutes. -- X Took a walk afterwards through the woods beyond Jemmy's town about 3 miles; saw several Ant Hilllocks in Pyramidal form, some of which were 10 feet in height and about 6 in diameter at the base. X Passed by a large tree which at 4 feet from the ground

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measured 68 feet in circumference. -- X Cross'd a marsh overgrown with Mangrove trees, the trunks of which were loaded with Oysters X -- Passed thro Town belonging to the Natives, could find no person in the houses, all of them being gone [I?] believe to their Rice grounds. -- Saw vast numbers of Ananas? or Pine apples growing wild in the woods. Return'd to the settlement before dinner.

#### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>

This forenoon took a walk through the woods as far as the Old Settlement, distant about 4 miles. -- Pass'd through a town belonging to the natives where I stopp'd a little while to recover from the fatigue from walking. Dined at the above settlement and prescribed for such as were sick. -- The account I had before heard of the prodigious bulk of the snakes in this country, confirm'd by one of the inhabitants who had some time ago been attacked by one them, which he had the good fortune to kill. Return'd home in the afternoon; - found King Nambaino on shore at the tent, his Wife, Daughters, and Signeur Domingo a Slave Merchant. -- King N's dress, A sky blue silk jacket with silver lace; striped cotton trousers, Ruffled shirt, Green Morroco slippers; A Cock'd had with gold Lace; -- White cotton Cap; A Belt round his neck from which hung pendant on his breast the figure of Lamb bearing a cross and beset with rays form'd of pastel.--

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This morning about [1?] o'clock a large Baboon entered one of the tents, seized upon a young girl aged 13 by the heels and dragged her out of the hut; her cries alarmed a man who was sleeping in the same place, who immediately caught hold of her arm, as the animal was raising her over some planks [?] the entrance of the tent. A fair contest of strength now took place between the Man and the Animal, the latter with all its strength endeavour'd to carry off the Girl, and the Man was equally determin'd to the contrary; some assistance arriving the Baboon made off into the Woods. -- The Girls name

Upon relating this circumstance at the Old Settlement, have reason to believe what we all imagined to be a Baboon, was a real Oran Otang; several of those settlers having seen them in the wood always walking in an erect position, and about the stature of a middle sized man. -- One of the Men shot an animal of this kind a little while ago.

#### Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March

Took a walk to King Jemmys town this afternoon. Nothing particular occur'd today.

#### Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Strand and myself paid a visit this afternoon to King Jemmy. – Drank some excellent Palm wine. – from thence we took a walk beyond the town into the Woods; --

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struck out of the path we were pursuing through the thickets in order to get in to another which I imagined lay in a parallel direction a little way [to?] the left of us. – After proceeding two or three hundred yards with extreme difficulty by reason of the thorns, [?] [woods/weeds?], and close growth of the underwood in general, we thought it advisable to return to our old path, rather than run the hazard of getting ourselves more entangled; it being at the best very uncertain whether the path we were in search after really existed. – Endeavouring to regain our old road, we occasionally took circuitous directions in order to avoid the closer parts, which were sometimes absolutely impassible, by this means we were in the course of 10 minutes most completely lost; we had not the least idea of any point in the Compass. – On every side we found ourselves surrounded by such thickets that required an uncommon resolution and considerable strength to penetrate. –In this dilemma I ascended a neighbouring tree to look out for the sea. – saw it apparently at a short distance from us. – pursued the direction I pointed out with redoubled vigour; but as it was impossible to proceed in a direct line we a second time lost every idea of our course. Passed by and over a vast number of Ant Hillocks from 6 to 10 feet high and of a pyramidal form the base I should imagine would measure 6 feet in diameter. – A second time I ascended a tree, but could observe nothing but wood on every side. Exhausted

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with fatigue; bathed with perspiration, covered with blood, and swarming with Ants whose bite gave me the most excruciating pain I determined to proceed no farther, but to continue in the tree till morning. With many [entreaties?] from my companion I was however after a considerable time prevailed upon to descend; it being his resolution to proceed in one direction or other whilst he was capable of moving. – We took our course for some Palm trees we saw at a distance being in some measure guided by the sun which was then very low; in a little time we fortunately struck in to an old path by pursuing which we regain'd our old road, and shortly afterwards to our unspeakable satisfaction arrived at Free Town.

About 9 o'clock we heard frequent reports of Guns or Swivels near King Jemmy's Town. Our Settlers alarm'd and apprehensive of an attack from the natives, assembled round our tent to the amount of several hundreds, arm'd with [musquets?] resolutely determined to defend themselves, and [appearing?] upon the whole rather to wish than fear it. It proved afterwards to be a groundless alarm the natives being rejoicing upon some occasion or other.

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##### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Nothing particular occurred this day worth relating. – The Council met this afternoon.

##### **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>**

Somewhat indisposed this morning. – Sent off a letter to Mr. Clarkson on board the Amy requesting him to write to the Court of Directors the first opportunity, and desire them to appoint and send over as soon as possible some Gentleman to officiate as Surgeon to this Colony, it being my determination to return to England on account of ill health. This forenoon one of the Natives brought a Camelion to our

Tent which I purchased for a glass of Rum and a few Biscuits. -- -- It was about \_\_\_ inches in length from the nose to the extremity of the tail; the [sup?] part of the head was flat. The eyes very protuberant and almost surrounded by [orbicular?] muscles which enabled the animal to move them in every direction; I frequently observed one eye looking directly forward whilst the other was [inclined?] in an opposite direction. It has greatly the resemblance of a lizard and might readily be mistaken for one, was it not for the wonderful property it possesses of changing its colour. When I first view'd it the colour was a dark grey or rather black; it soon afterwards changed into a blue, a deep green, and lastly into a very pale green, approaching towards a yellow. When irritated it appears of a blackish colour;

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I have observed one half of the animal or one side of it, to be of a yellowish green at the same time that the opposite side has appeared of a dark green. – At present it appears [?], of a greenish hue with dark spots. On each fore foot, it has 4 claws in the hind feet, six; It walks very slowly, but is well adapted for climbing. [A sketch of the animal drawn.]

### **Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Attended Divine service this forenoon. After Dinner paid a visit to King Jemmy.

### **Monday April 2d**

About two o'clock this morning the rain falling with a violence we could scarcely have conceived possible, awoke us all from a sound sleep; the Wind at the same time beginning to rise and blow in gusts made apprehend a Tornado was coming on, and that our house which was made of light materials and so constructed as to be disjointed at pleasure and erected on any other situation, would probably take a flight with us to the Bullam shore on the opposite side of the

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river; Possessed with ideas of this nature, we [dress'd?] ourselves with the utmost precipitation, which without any light but what the heavens afforded us [?] very readily effected, the lightening at this time [being?] extremely vivid, and the flashes following each other in so quick a succession as to appear [almost?] continued. – It proved however to be a false alarm, the storm soon after abating, we again imposed ourselves to sleep.

Took a walk with Mr. Strand beyond King Jemmy's town; pursuing a path which led us through several old deserted towns of the natives, now overgrown with Banana, Plantain, and Lime trees, the plant which produces the Cayenne pepper being also found in great abundance and loaded with fruit. The path terminated about a mile from the place we first entered into in an open space which the natives had just been clearing for their rice ground. During this walk we found several Centipedes, whose bite is extremely venomous; one of them I brought with me to preserve. – The aspect of the land on each side the path was uncommonly wild and from the rustling we frequently heard among the bushes we had no doubt but it was well inhabited by beasts of prey for which it seem'd admirably adapted; I must acknowledge we walk'd in considerable fear, having with us no arms that could protect us from the sudden assault of a Leopard or Hyena, the only animals which we had any reason to dread, if I may except a monstrous species of snake very common in these parts and which will not only prey upon

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the smaller animals but even upon Leopards, [Deer?], Hogs, and Man, if they chance to come within its reach. The natives call it \_\_\_\_ We arrived in the evening at Free Town, in perfect safety.

#### Tuesday 3d April

Took a walk this afternoon with several of our gentleman to view the large tree, whose [girth?] before mention'd on the 26<sup>th</sup> of last month to be [?8] feet. – Mr. Watt assures us it is the Silk Cotton tree. From this place we took a farther walk to the same open space I was in yesterday here found the natives busy in clearing the ground. – Return'd to Free town.

This forenoon sat in Council.

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Dined on board the Amy by invitation of Mr. Clarkson, it being his birthday. – Some of the natives brought us a small species of deer which they had shot, called in the Timmaney [Timne] language \_\_\_\_\_

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

One of settlers brought into the Town a large Antelope which he had shot the preceding evening; purchased a hind quarter of him weighing 30lbs – These animals are extremely shy, and will seldom if ever come within reach of shot unless they are way laid; for this purpose some one must climb up a tree towards the evening or any night

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when the moon gives a clear unobscured light; which must be situated near a path leading some rivulet, having thus taken his station with his Gun ready [loaded?], tis extremely probable some of these animals will pass by the tree in a short time towards the River and give the person thus conceal'd an opportunity of destroying one or more of them.

Was surprised this forenoon while looking at my Camelion to see him change from a perfect black to a most beautiful yellow, spotted and streaked with black. – He is now changing his skin; the old coat is of a dull white colour, and may readily be pulled off with the fingers; underneath as I have just observed his colour will vary from Black to the brighter yellow; Green is a very frequent colour. He sometimes puts on an obscure dullish blue but not often.

#### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Attended divine service this forenoon it being Good Friday. – This afternoon Dr Bells property consisting of Books, Wearing Apparel etc. was put up for sale. – purchased several articles to the amount of £8 Currency.

#### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

Found upon a tree which had been wounded a small quantity of a yellow Gum much resembling Gamboge; it was very little if at all soluble in water, but in spirits dissolved readily and entirely; the solution by the addition of water became [t?] and opaque, but without depositing any sediment.

Another Gum was found upon a

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tree close by the tent, which appears to be Copal.

The natives brought me a considerable quantity of a plant which they make use of to dye their cloth; it strikes a very deep and indelible blue, and appears in every respect to equal the Indigo, perhaps superior. – Mem?: to request the natives to show the process of dying with this plant. – I believe the plant and cloth are boiled together for some time. – When chewed it [tinges?] the saliva of a grass green colour; and dyes the tongue and teeth with a dash blue which continues for several days.

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

Took a walk this morning in search of the tree which bears the Cashew nut; met with several about half a mile distant from the settlement. Observ'd no fruit; but saw some of the flowers or blossom, these however were so imperfect that it was impossible to ascertain which Class or Order the tree belong'd to. – Attended divine service this forenoon. – This day being Easter Sunday Mr. Gilbert administered the Sacrament to several. -- \* Walk'd over to K: Jemmy town this afternoon. All the Town and Paths leading to it were in a manner strewed over with Silk Cotton from two trees in the neighbourhood which were then shedding their seeds. – The Silk Cotton tree is remarkable for its size, and wide spreading branches; There is another peculiarity attending the form of the inferior part of the trunk; to the height of \_\_\_ feet it is beset round with projecting parts somewhat resembling buttresses

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which appear necessary in some measure to support [the?] enormous bulk of the tree. – Return'd from A night in a Canoe belonging to the natives. – During the time they are rowing, I have frequently observed them to sing, I believe it to be their [constant?] practice. – At every second stroke with their Oars, when they wish to proceed with greater [?]erity] than usual, they rise and stand upon the seats in order to acquire a greater power.

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Nothing particular occur'd these days worth noticing.

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

According to a general notice given to our settlers yesterday; the whole of them assembled this morning at the Tent to have their name registered [fresh?], and sign a bond purporting that whilst they reside in this Colony, they will live obedient to its Laws which will be made conformable to those of England as far as local circumstances will permit. The number of Individuals who embarked at Halifax were according to List there made 1190, of this number we find 112 have died.

During the passage the

Vessel's Name	Amount of People " Lost"
Venus	8
Beaver	6
Betsey	3
Parr	5
Mary Maddocks	7
Sierra Leone	4
Catherine	1
Mary Barnard	6

Eleanor	4
Somerset	4
Brothers	1
Lucretia	4
Felicity	4
Morning Star	4
Prince Wm Henry	3

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[?] the number decreased, 7 died at Halifax before we sail'd.

64 --- at Sea [In different pencil number 65 sits besides 64; and 40 sits beside 40]

41---on Shore

112

Men deceased - 55

Women deceased – 41

Children deceased – 16

Total – 112

The proportion of deaths to the number embarked about one tenth of the whole.

Births since embarkations – 14 [The number 13 is shown crossed out and replaced with 14.]

Took a walk into the Woods this forenoon, collected small quantity of the yellow Resin from wounds which had before made in the trees for that purpose. It is not at all miscible with water like Gamboge, but in its [?perties] and flavour which last is very slight appears [?] to resemble that resin which has been imported [?] New South Wales. – Upon further search I discovered another kind of Gum exuding from a tree which upon minute inspection I found to be Gum Tragacanth. A third Gum of a reddish colour and styptic taste I also found and believe it to be the Gum rubrum astringens, or Kino. The bark was uncommonly astringent. – There is a small tree bearing a yellow colour'd fruit, which when pluck'd or cut, gives out a milky liquid which immediately hardens and becomes elastic; in this state it may be drawn out a considerable length, and will immediately contract to its original dimensions when the fingers are withdrawn; If the leaves are pluck'd the same kind of liquid will exude. – [Can?] this be Caoutchouc or Elastic Gum? – A Tree had been lately cut down, the stump remaining contained a large quantity of an [?ferous] Gum diffused throughout its substance of a [resinous?] nature

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This day at dinner we had an imperfect specimen of Tornado; It subsided in a few minutes and was followed by a heavy shower of rain. During the time the wind continued to blow, the air was observed to be [crowded?] with flocks of the Silk Cotton blown from the trees on the Bullam shore as far as the Harpy which lay from thence at least \_\_\_miles

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Collected some more of the yellow Gum; the stringent gum, and Gum Tragacanth. – Went to King Jemmy's town this afternoon, from thence took a walk into the woods beyond the Flag staff, and discover'd the tree which bears the real Gum Gamboge. The Gum exuding from thence was miscible with water and flow'd easily with the pencil; the tree is about [?] feet high and from 2 to 5 inches in diameter. A small Tornado this night with rain.

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

A Tornado about 11 o'clock this night.

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

Heard divine service this forenoon. 3 couple married, and 3 children christen'd. – Four men of the Lapwing's crew refused to get their vessel under way in order to carry Mr. Falconbridge up the river, alledging by way of excuse that they considered Sunday as a day belonging to themselves on which they were to be exempt from duty. – Mr. Cox with several arm'd men went on board the Lapwing, took them in custody, and brought them on shore, where they were confined in Irons.

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#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

This morning, the Lapwing crew were tried. – Two of them according to sentence received a dozen lashes each. – Took a walk to the woods; saw great numbers of wild [hogs?].

#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Went this forenoon to K: Jemmy's town in order to write letters with less inconvenience and interruption than I found could be done at our own settlement; the Felicity being expected to sail for England tomorrow. – In my road thither saw a Pelican standing in the sea near the beach for the purpose of catching fish. In the afternoon a little distance from Jemmy's town observ'd the [Kyan pepper?] plant in flower; – upon examination discovered it to belong to the class Pentandria; order Monogya The flower is small, white, and consist of five Petals the Calya monophyllous. – Leaves.

The plant is generally about 4 or 5 feet high with many branches issuing as it were from the root. – Having finished my letters, return'd home by a road I had never before seen, on account of it being high water. -- Pass'd the river higher up than usual, and going a little way through the wood entered into a spacious plain or savannah covered only with grass; in this field, found a well beaten path apparently [?] up into the mountains: -- reserv'd the pursuit of this till another day. – struck out of this path to the left; cross'd a river course near the edge of a precipice or cataract measuring 28 feet in perpendicular depth. Standing

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on the brink, found that only 4 feet of this [?] measurement was solid rock; below this was a large Cave 24 feet high, from the bottom of which at this dry season issued a small stream a continuation of that above, which [about?] [2?] paces from the edge of the precipice sunk down imperceptibly through some

interstice in the rock. – This cascade must have a [?sand] appearance during the rainy season. – Saw some red wood, similar in colour to Mahogany and might prove a very good substitute for it. The tree was \_\_\_ inches in diameters [?] outside of a paler colour to the depth of [?] inches. – A very heavy Tornado [?] night which greatly alarm'd us.

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

After dinner took a walk into the same plain I was in yesterday; pursuing the path towards the mountains it led me to a town belonging to the natives consisting only of 7 houses Saw only two Women in the town, perfectly naked, and beating Rice from its husk in [wood?] mortars. – N.B: This appears to be the womens principal employment; I never observed a man engaged in this business. – Followed a path on the opposite side of this town towards the mountains which led me into an open space which the natives had just been clearing for their Rice ground the ensuing season; passing through this with some difficulty on account

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of the trees and shrubs lying in irregular heaps for the purpose of burning I again found another path at the upper end of the field, or perhaps it might be a continuation of the old one; this track led me down into a deep and dark valley with a small rivulet at the bottom. – N:B: The rock in the bed of this river, and the hill in the other side, is not Lava, but appears to be a kind of granite, similar to what I have observed at the Sea Beach. – Ascending this Hill on the opposite side, saw two or three old houses belonging to the natives, which I imagined had served them as store houses for their Rice, during some preceding harvest. The evening coming on and apprehensive of a Tornado, I return'd home with tolerable expedition considering the roads

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>

Took a walk into the Grass field yesterday; pursuing the path downwards it led me to K: Jemmy's town. – Crossing the River which borders on that town caught a small fish, which when pursued leaps out of the water upon the dry land, and jumping from stone to stone with extreme agility by means of its pectoral fins most generally escapes; -- The natives esteem them good eating. – Very much indisposed during the night with Dysentery.

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### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Still indisposed, with extreme languor and debility, yet upon the whole somewhat better.

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

The Felicity, Schooner, this morning sail'd for England; -- She was accompanied as [?] as the Banana Isles by the Lapwing Cutter. [?] the Felicity, as Passengers were Lieut. Wickham, The Revd. Nath. Gilbert, and Mr. Hutchinson with his wife.

Mond.

The afternoon went up the River in the Susan with – Coppinger who had some business at Gambia Island. – Could get no farther than the Old settlement Granville town where we slept;

Tuesday

X the next morning at day break the tide coming in got under way again and by [?] of rowing reached Mr. Renaud's factory [not sure this was meant to be inserted here?] Gambia about 9 this morning; -- The appearance of the different shores as we proceeded up the river, highly picturesque & beautiful. – Renauds [?] pleasantly situated. – but extremely hot having very little breeze. – Keeps a Seraglio – of [women?] – A little before noon return from the factory [made?] very little way; with the [assistance?] [?] sail made our way to the Bullam shore. [[?] [t?] returning arrived within few feet of the spot from where we sail'd. With extreme difficulty reach'd Senior Domingo's [?], in the evening. –

The town much [neater?] than any I have seen belonging to the natives; [Curious?] nests in a tree there. – from thence walk'd [?] to the Old Settlement having determined the moment I landed not [?] to [?] [?] [?] on board the boat again

Sunday?

Mr. [Pry's?]. read divine service – in the [interior?] Mr. Gray & myself took a walk beyond K. J. town intending to reach [Yam?] Coppra's; Got to a village up in a small ascent on the other side of a valley fill'd with Mangroves. – the Mangroves loaded with Oysters; was treated with some at the town. – Upon our return were overtook by a thunderstorm, a more heavy one I never saw; having only upon me a [?] Jacket & trowsers being dress'd very light, as is [necessary?] in these hot climates, was soon wet through all my cloath, in order to be more comfortable, pull'd off my Jacket & shirt and from the Waist upward walked perfectly naked having nothing upon me but a pair of Trowsers & my shoes. – Thus prepared I walk with considerable comfort comparatively speaking to what I did before. Could find leisure to look about me and occasionally stop to inspect in to any thing curious which I observ'd in the way home, notwithstanding the [rain?] which came down like a torrent. – arrived at Freetown in the afternoon. – suffered an inconvenience or injury to my [?] from the expedition

Wed

Walked over early this morning from the old Settlement to free town. – Mr. C & I returned this evening in the Lapwing Cutter. – River covered [?] up with leaves & branches of trees. –

Thursd