

UNIVERSITY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
LIBRARIES











# Pennsylvania:

THE GERMAN INFLUENCE  
IN ITS SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

---

A Narrative and Critical History

---

PREPARED BY AUTHORITY OF  
THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY

## PART XIX

*DIARY OF A VOYAGE FROM ROTTERDAM  
TO PHILADELPHIA IN 1728*

*TRANSLATED BY JULIUS F. SACHSE*



PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

Publication Committee.

JULIUS F. SACHSE, Litt.D.

DANIEL W. NEAD, M.D.

HENRY M. M. RICHARDS



Diary of a Voyage  
from  
Rotterdam to Philadelphia  
In 1728

TRANSLATED BY  
JULIUS F. SACHSE

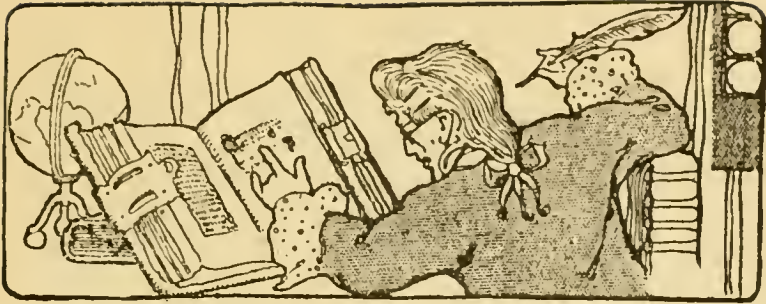
LANCASTER, PA.  
1909

---

COPYRIGHTED 1909  
BY THE  
Pennsylvania-German Society.

---

PRESS OF  
THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY  
LANCASTER, PA.



A MISSIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA IN THE  
YEAR OF GRACE 1728.



THE following diary of a journey from Rotterdam to Philadelphia in the year 1728 was found in the library of the old monastery of St. Pauli in Westphalia. The books of the old Kloster are now stored in the University Library at Münster, the city renowned for the excesses of the Anabaptists under Leyden and Knipperdolling in the sixteenth century, and now the see of an archbishop of the Roman Church.

This pamphlet, as the title page sets forth, in an extract from several missives from Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, wherein is described the entire voyage from Rotterdam to Pennsylvania, all carefully noted, together with the climate of this country, the actions of the inhabitants, and a setting forth of their industries, conditions, etc., also the names of such tame and wild animals, birds, fish, field and garden fruits, etc., of that place; at the same time many remarkable circumstances, heretofore unknown to us are truly described.

Necessary tidings put into print for those who follow.

In the year of Christ, 1729. The identity of the author has not been discovered. He was evidently a man of education and learning—either a licentiate of theology or a schoolmaster. The whole tenor of his letters teems with devout phrases. Further, the fact of having been a cabin passenger and the interest taken in his welfare by the younger Furly<sup>1</sup> in Rotterdam at the outset of his voyage, all goes to show that he was a man of importance if not of means.

The traveller in an ocean greyhound, at the present day, can form but scant idea of the trials and suffering endured by his forbears. A careful perusal of this diary, so graphically set forth will be a revelation to the American generations descended from the early German emigrants. His descriptions of the social conditions show him to have been a close observer of local affairs.

Not the least interesting part of his missive is the note about the devout hermit. This hermit was none other than Conrad Mathai,<sup>2</sup> and the notice here given, short though it is, throws still further light upon this strange character, who lived as an anchorite for so many years on the banks of the romantic Wissahickon and whose identity has remained an unfathomable mystery up to the present day.

However, who the writer was, what his after conditions were, his life, profession or end are shrouded in impenetrable mystery. The translator has carefully gone over the historic field between the years 1728 to 1730 without finding a trace or clue to the identity of the writer of this interesting and unique missive.

JULIUS F. SACHSE.

<sup>1</sup> *Vide* Benjamin Furly—an English Merchant in Rotterdam—by Julius F. Sachse, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*, October, 1895.

<sup>2</sup> For biographical sketch of Conrad Matthai see "German Pietists," pp. 388-401.

**Auszug**  
einiger  
**Send = Schreiben**  
aus  
**Philadelphia in Pensylvanien,**  
worinnen  
die ganze Reise, von Rotterdam nach  
Pensylvanien, fleißig aufgezeichnet, und dieses  
Landes Klima, dessen Bewohner Handlung, andere  
Gewerbe, Ordnung, etc. entdeckt ist;  
Samt Benennung dasiger zahmen und wilden Thiere,  
Gevögel, Fische, Feld- und Garten-Früchte, etc.  
Auch wird zugleich von vielen merckwürdigen  
Umständen, die uns bisher unbekandt geblieben,  
aufrichtiger Bericht abgestattet.  
Dem Nächsten zur nöthigen Nachricht  
durch den Druck mitgetheilet.

---

Im Jahr Christi 1729.

## PHILADELPHIA IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The 14/25 September 1728.



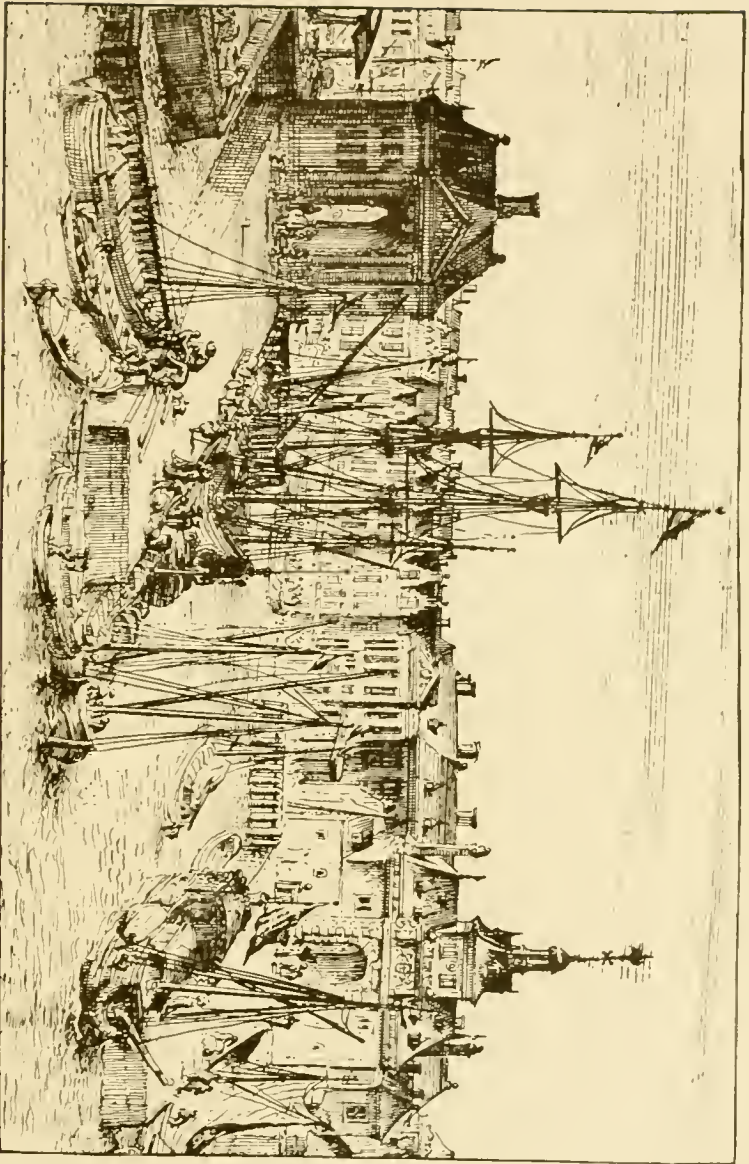
In continuation of my last.—Our voyage to Pennsylvania was appointed for the ninth of June. But our departure was delayed until the fifteenth, when we set sail early from Rotterdam, having however an unfavorable wind. After sailing about an hour and a half we

had the misfortune to break our Iron Rudder-gaff, through the carelessness of the Pilot, who ran our ship aground, under full sail, whereby our second helmsman, who was at the tiller was badly hurt at his foot.

So we had to cast our anchor, and send the broken gaff back to Rotterdam for repairs. On the afternoon of the sixteenth, we again set our sails but could make no headway on account of the contrary wind, so after drifting for a couple of hours, we had again to drop our anchor. On the afternoon of the seventeenth, we again weighed our anchor, but after sailing about half an hour, we once more were fast upon the sand, by the carelessness of our almost never sober pilot. Thus we were hard and fast aground until about nine o'clock in the evening, when we were again afloat at high tide. At two o'clock in the morning we weighed anchor, but after floating for a quarter of an hour we were again aground until the flood tide, which released us. We then anchored for the night, and on the nineteenth we sailed away before a good breeze until nightfall, when we cast anchor for the night.

Early on the 20th we set sail, but after a short run were again aground, but floated after some hours. On the

THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY.



THE HOOFD-POORT AT ROTTERDAM.

GATWAY THROUGH WHICH ALL THE GERMAN EMIGRANTS PASSED TO THE WHARF FROM WHICH THEY SAILED FOR AMERICA





21st we started early and sailed well during the day. At night we anchored. On the 22d we continued our journey, and at eight o'clock we sighted Helvoetsluys. The captain personally paid the custom duties and attended to his other affairs, all of which detained us two hours, when we started again with a fresh breeze and a better pilot than our first one. We were soon in the Channel with fair weather and wind in our favor.

Early in the morning of the 24th we sighted the English cliffs, and about 9 o'clock in the morning passed Dover. On the 25th we experienced strong and contrary winds, and on the 26th were again forced to cast anchor, until the following day on account of the heavy wind, when we proceeded on our journey by aid of a good breeze. This increased and continued until about noon on the 28th, when a shower came up, followed by a dead calm, which lasted until noon on the 30th, when a favorable breeze again arose, which by the grace of God wafted us into the harbor of Plymouth, the same evening.

After an inspection of our vessel, which resulted favorably we sailed out of Plymouth Harbor on July 8, but on account of contrary winds were obliged to come to anchor on a very dangerous spot, with perilous cliffs upon both sides. Here we remained until the 11th, if where in the meantime a storm would have arisen, we would have been in the greatest peril.

The merciful God, however, prevented it, and we sailed off this dangerous hole on the 11th with a very favorable breeze. The same day we passed the end of England, and entered upon the great ocean, having steady favorable wind until the 17th when we sighted two English ships coming from *Livorno* and *Gibraltar*, who brought us news that the Saracen pirates had broken their treaty with England, and had equipped several vessels and sent

them out to sea, with orders to capture all Christian ships with which they should meet.

Both of the above ships sailed to London and we continued on our course, in fear and apprehension on account of the news we heard. We again experienced adverse winds on the 18th. Upon this day we also met a French vessel from *Terra-Neuf* to *London*, and which owing to the news we had, inspired us with no little fear. The contrary winds continued during the 19th and 20th, but on the 21st we again had favorable breezes which lasted until the 24th. Towards evening we caught a large seafish, which the Hollanders call *Tonneyn*, the English *Harper*. Of this we had the lungs and liver fried in butter for breakfast, and they were very good to eat. The other parts were no good. We had light favorable breezes on the 25th, calm on the 26th, strong but contrary wind on the 27th and 28th. On the latter day we sighted a ship that bore down upon us with evident sinister intentions, but as they saw that we were heavily manned, they sheared off without answering our hail.

The following night we had severe contrary winds which lasted until the 3d of August, when toward evening we got a favorable breeze. It was calm on the 4th. On the 5th a good strong wind; 6th calm; 7th and 8th favorable wind; 9th contrary wind which continued until the 17th, when, toward evening, the wind changed in our favor, and continued so during the next day. From the 19th to the 26th we had contrary wind. Upon the latter day we caught some exceedingly beautiful large fish, which the English call *Dolphins*, and were delicious to eat, the broth tasting as good as if from a chicken.—*Item*, we also caught a very large fish called *Hay* [Hai-fish, shark] but we could not eat him.

On the 27th we had good, but on the 28th again con-

trary breezes. On this day the wind blowing by fits and starts unshipped the topmast of our main mast, but this was again replaced on the same day. We had pretty good wind on the 29th and 30th. On this day we saw a so-called Devil fish which was very large and hideous, also a shark. On the 31st we again had good breezes. Toward noon we spoke a vessel from New York, bound for Newfoundland, which informed us that we were 78 English miles from New York.

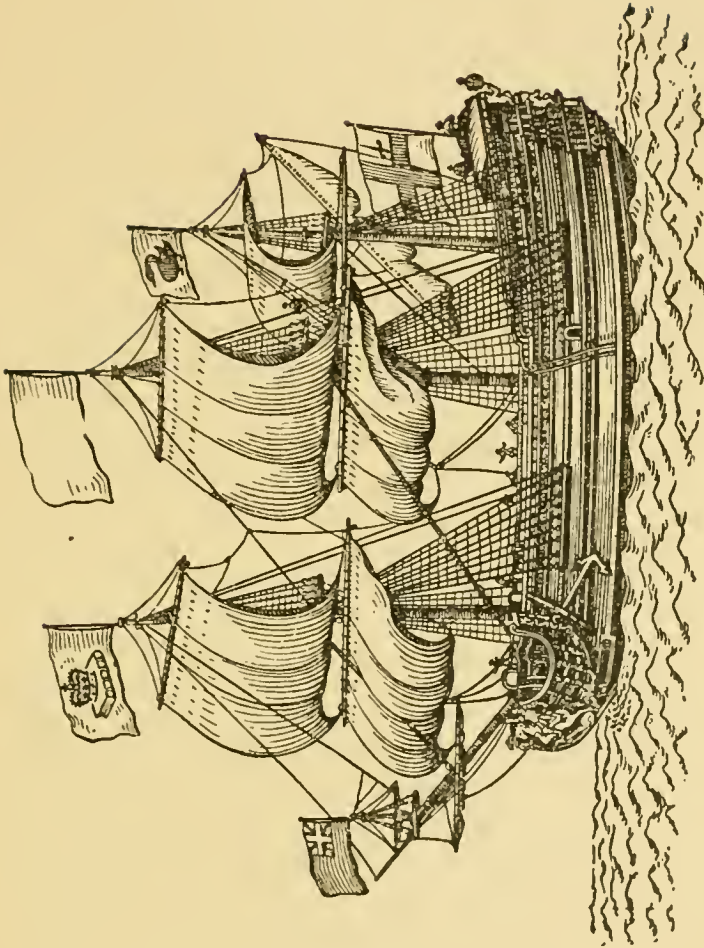
September 1st we had fairly good breezes. This day we for the first time found soundings at 35 fathoms, after having cast our lead in vain for several days. On the 2d we still had good wind, and the water became more and more shallow, and late at night we found bottom at 13 fathoms.

Early on September 3d we sighted the American coast and found bottom at seven fathoms, but could not approach the land on account of contrary winds, and at nightfall had to run to sea again, where we had to tack and beat about until finally, on the 5th, we with great difficulty ran into Delaware Bay, and on account of the many sandbanks came to anchor, as we wanted a pilot on board to take us up to Philadelphia. We set our flag on the main mast, and fired our gun several times, but no pilot came. So our captain resolved to send the chief mate with three sailors to the land to find a pilot, which was done. As both wind and tide was against them, the four sailors, notwithstanding their steady rowing failed to steer the small boat so as to land where they had intended, but were driven sideways by the current until we eventually lost sight of them. This was about noon. At three o'clock in the afternoon we saw a pilot boat approach, but on account of adverse wind could not come near us, so they anchored and set a flag, which our

captain took for a signal to send a boat out after the pilot and bring him aboard. He therefore launched our large boat and manned with four sailors. In the meantime night had set in, so that we feared that our boat would miss the pilot. Our captain therefore placed a lantern with a bright light upon our mizzenmast, so that at least our own crew could return. Our boat, however was hardly a few lengths from the ship when the wind shifted in favor of the pilot, who, together with our own crew, were soon alongside. The pilot, however, had nothing whatever to say about the sailors who were first sent out in the gig, but that he had set out in response to our guns, etc. This caused our captain great anxiety, fearing that the men together with the boat were lost.

During the night a violent storm arose, that made the night seem very long and caused all of us much concern, as we were short a boatswain, and three sailors, and even with them we had not a single man too much in our crew. The next morning, viz., the 6th, the pilot sent out his boat in the raging storm, manned by his own men and one of our sailors, to seek those who had first been sent out in the gig, or at least to obtain some information of them or their fate. Now we were short five men of our crew. The storm continued all day, and became more intense during the night. Consequently our fear and anxiety increased. The storm did not abate on the 7th but constantly grew worse so that towards evening the hawsers, straining time and again threatened to part.

During this storm a heavy rain fell, so I remained in my bed, particularly on account of the horrid motion of the ship. One could neither walk nor stand, but would stagger like a drunkard, As I laid with my face toward the windows of the cabin, I could see the sky and became



A VESSEL OF THE EARLY XVIII CENTURY.

aware that our ship was in motion, and as I could not think otherwise than that our anchor hawser had parted, I became frightened, and cried out aloud "Oh my Lord! Our ship is loose, the hawser has parted, we are undoubtedly lost, if God's merciful hand does not save us." (The danger could not have been greater as we were so near the shore and surrounded by many sand banks.)

Shortly after some one went out from the cabin to see just what the conditions were. He soon returned with a somewhat consolatory report, viz., the captain, fearing that the hawser would part, let it out, buoyed the end with a large cask, so that it would not sink and could be recovered later. A lug-sail was then set and we sailed to another and safer spot than where we had been, as designated by the pilot. This news relieved us somewhat, though sailing in a raging storm between the shore and sand banks was not very comforting. The gracious God, however, helped us, and after sailing a good half an hour we came to the place we aimed for. It was close to the shore, opposite to the little town called Louistown or Ludwigs Statt. Here we cast our last hope, the sheet anchor, as our pilot told us that even should our hawser part, and the ship be cast ashore, the bottom was such that he hoped that all of the passengers and crew would be saved. The storm continued to rage fearfully during the night, so much so that our tiller broke although it had been well lashed (a damage which we found difficult to repair). The ship also sprung a leak by the constant pounding and rolling. Consequently our crew, together with the Pfälzter, had to pump day and night, and when at last the pumps gave out, they were forced to bale out the water, and all of that during a heavy rain, whereby these people became very fatigued, and a number became

sick. The captain was greatly worried and concerned, especially as he knew nothing about the fate of our five sailors which he had sent out. In the meantime our topmasts and yardarms were lowered, as well as some of the canvas unbent, after which the ship had quite a delapidated appearance, and it seemed as if we would be destined to pass the winter here. The storm lightened somewhat upon the 8th and then gradually calmed down, so that the night was pretty quiet. On the 9th we had a good breeze, but our sailors had not yet returned. Same on the 10th, no sailors, and our last piece of firewood was gone, which gave us great concern, in case we had to remain on board for any length of time, as we had many small children aboard, who without warm food could exist only with difficulty. On the 11th our captain resolved to go ashore personally in the large boat, and enquire about our absent crew. This was done, and upon his return with a load of cedar wood and apples, brought the truth about the missing sailors, who had been for some days in the town and gotten drunk, but had left several hours previously, stating that they would return on board at night, which they did, but not in the gig, but in the pilot boat. They still had a good bit aboard, and made many excuses in their justification.

Early on the 12th we raised our anchor, and sailed on our journey, but on account of contrary winds were forced to again come to anchor on our old ground. As it was calm and the weather fine, I went ashore with the captain shortly after noon to buy some bread, meat, etc., but there was none to be had, so we had to content ourselves with apples which were to be had in plenty. After we were about an hour and a half in the town, a shot from our vessel warned us to return, which we did

not fail to obey. As we came aboard our anchor was already lifted, and the ship in motion, as the breeze was favorable but light. We anchored for the night, and on the 13th sailed away with a good wind. In the afternoon we came into the Delaware River, and towards evening passed New Castle, but anchored for the night, sailing on the morning of the 14th with the finest wind, reaching towards 8 o'clock "*Makkershuck*" [Marcus Hook] a fine village, and shortly after passing the town of Chester, we towards noon finally dropped our anchor in front of Philadelphia, whereupon I shortly afterwards went ashore.

So at last this discommodious and dangerous journey had reached its end. The gracious God be praised therefore into all eternity.

Concerning the other inconveniences of this journey, they consisted chiefly from the fact that the ship was packed too full, as a result there was but little room. In the cabin which was of medium size there were lodged eight persons, with much baggage and we had to content ourselves with close quarters.

The ship's food consisted of horrible salted corned meat and pork, peas, barley, groats and codfish. The drink was a stinking water, in which all food was cooked. My company did not take as much separistic food as I desired or advised them to, because they could not imagine nor could they believe that the voyage would be so long, or that the ship's food would prove so unpalatable. The good Lord however provided for us, as He by the hands of a reputable and dear friend Mister F—, in R—,<sup>2</sup> unexpectedly, after we had already started upon our journey, sent us a goodly quantity of provisions, consisting of smoked hams and beef, he also bestowed upon us some

<sup>2</sup>The son of Benjamin Furley, of Rotterdam.—J. F. S.



THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY.



*Benjamin Furley*

BENJAMIN FURLEY.



wine which became us well, and without these supplies we would undoubtedly have suffered greatly.

Personally the above mentioned Mister F[urly] sent me a lot of bottles filled with Bristol water, for which I still thank him with all my heart, and about which I cannot say enough in its praise, how this water, which I believe to be free from deterioration, quickened me, as without it I should have been seriously ill, for the regular ship water often had an almost unbearable stench. "May God give him the water of life for it." I was so careful with this water, that I still had three bottles of it when we arrived in Philadelphia.

Thus the gracious God cared for me in every way, so that during the whole voyage I suffered no want. I was not even sea sick, and at all time was very well, except from standing and sitting so much my limbs swelled, which incommoded me somewhat.

My greatest annoyance during the whole voyage were the lice, from which none aboard were free, not even the captain, and I observed that the oftener one put on a clean shirt, the more one was plagued with this pest. "Praise God! even this misery is overcome."

Now I am here, and rejoice over my deliverance from the dangerous element of water, and am upon dry land. But this I must and will frankly acknowledge, that if I were still in B— or any other place in Europe, I would never undertake this journey, even if there should be here a veritable, or in fact a terrestrial Paradise, as a certain person wrote in his lying deceitful letters from here to various places in Germany.

I for my own part consider it more as a purifying fire and a crucible than a paradise, especially for me and such as my equals. Very poor people, and such as have sound

and strong limbs, and are willing to work, may get along here, and in time may even become wealthy. Well to do people and such as cannot perform manual labor, but have all their work done by paying for it, can easily become poor in a few years—yea, even fall into the greatest misery. The reason for this is that the day's wages are so excessively high, and help is occasionally not even to be obtained for money. A day laborer receives, counting according to the Berlin standard, 10, 12 to 16 groschen and more per day, in addition to which they get all they can eat and drink, three times a day. We have here, as I am told by a trustworthy party, cases where people who came to this country with much money and wanted to establish large plantations, were forced to relinquish them to their day laborers to whom they were indebted, and go away themselves empty handed.

The country in itself, is fertile enough, though there is a great difference in the land, as it is better in some places than at others, and requires indescribable labor to clear the overgrown acre, as the ground is covered with trees in such numbers and thickness that it can hardly be described. It is also already very dear. Such as came here twenty or thirty years ago have done well, as they could get acres of land for almost nothing, but now it is too late.—Summa—I would not advise any person to come to this country except as above noted, viz., that they were poor and industrious persons, whose life in Europe had become unbearable, and were willing to risk the voyage as a matter of life or death. Such persons, especially unmarried ones, can undertake the journey without money. The ship captains take them along, and when they land here, there are enough people found, who are willing to pay for the passage (ordinarily six pistoles) of

such persons and who then according to the laws of this country must serve their master for four years, after which they are free.—The master of such servants is bound at the end of the term to give the servant a suit of Sunday and ordinary clothes, together with a new axe and hoe.

Where there are any young children who come over in such manner, and are redeemed by some person, the boys must serve for their passage until they are 21 years of age, the girls until they are 18 years old, after which they are free.

There are also many people, especially in the city of Philadelphia, who buy and keep Negro slaves. Such, however, are very dear, and not according to every Christian's conscience. Game and fish are plenty here and there, but farm work keeps one so busy that but few persons can spare any time for hunting and fishing. As to game, so far as I have been able to learn, there are deer, bears, foxes, badgers and wild turkey cocks and hens (which are as large and larger than the tame ones, and it is said that a large old cock usually weighs 30 to 40 pounds, and that they are a great delicacy), pheasants, partridges, wild ducks, wild pigeons, the latter in such undecidable quantities that often twenty to thirty are killed with a single gunshot. They are not much shyer than the tame pigeons around Halberstadt and Magdeburg, but are very fat and tasteful. Of European species of fish, we have so far as I know eels, perch, sturgeon, also trout but very small. Of species unknown in Europe we have many, which often have curious shapes and names. Among those which I have seen one had a head almost like a woodcock, but most all are very good to eat.

The climate, especially for delicate bodies, is the worst

in the world. Here one, so to say, hardly knows of any spring or autumn, but only summer and winter, and in fact it is so extremely hot in summer, that last year many persons died of the heat. How this must fatigue people who have to work in the fields can easily be imagined, especially as on account of the great heat, almost all grain ripens about the same time, and labor is difficult to obtain at such times.

Upon the other hand, it is so dreadful cold in the winter, that people cannot keep themselves warm, even with such heavy work as thrashing. Then again we have such sudden changes from heat to cold, and from this again to heat (as well in summer as in winter) almost beyond belief, and is very pernicious to the health.

A farmer who is established here is fortunate in the fact that he does not have to pay much to the authorities, although the taxes begin to increase annually. Upon the contrary it is burdensome for him that he has to part with such things as he has to sell at a low price, while usually he has to pay dear for such as he needs. Generally, yea always, are such things as are produced by manual labor very dear, often almost beyond belief, viz., a spinning wheel, such as can be bought in Berlin for 12 to 16 Groschen [equiv. 30 to 40 cts. U. S.] costs here in Philadelphia from two to two and a half Rix dollars [U. S. equiv. \$1.44-1.80] and formerly cost even three Rix Thaler and more, and in like proportion are all things. The only exception that is universally cheap is the fruit, *i. e.*, apples, peaches and melons, of pears there are few and bad, cherries we have two varieties, of plums and apricots we have none. Grapes will not flourish here on account of the extremes of heat and cold. In most years the apples and peaches, however, bear in such great

quantities, that we do not know what to do with them, or they are fed to the hogs. Both of the above fruits are quite good and grow large, notwithstanding they have been propagated from the seed. Sassafras grows here in plenty in the wilderness and in certain locations makes quite a tree. Chestnuts and nuts, of which the most valuable is a sort of walnut, which grows wild and plentiful, both kinds are somewhat sweet, consequently well suited for food. But the chestnuts are so small that it would take much time to gather enough for a dish of cabbage. The walnuts are also quite small, with a shell both hard and thick, so that one has trouble to crack them with a hard piece of rock, then to dig out the almost infinitesimal kernel one has to use a fine and pointed nail. The lumber, notwithstanding that it is much harder than in Germany, is not near so durable. As to noxious vermin, chiefly the great and wicked snakes, one species attacks people, are so plentiful in the forest that I do not even want to hear about them.

The houses and other buildings (where they are worthy of the name) of most of the farmers are so poorly and miserably constructed, that in comparison Litthauen is beautiful. Poorer habitations I have never seen. The rich people, however, live comfortable enough.

During the past spring there was a great excitement in this country, for fear that a war would break out between the Indians and the Europeans. The cause for this was that two Europeans had killed an Indian. But after the criminals were tried and hung, they, the Indians, were satisfied and went back to their huts. One hears so much good about these savages, concerning the community of goods, fondness of amusement, peacefulness, and love toward one another and toward everyone who does not

give them offence, so that one cannot help but be amazed and admire these savages.

As the last few winters have been more severe than usual, they say: "It is because the Christians were more wicked, for when the Indians were here alone, it was never so cold, so the wicked Christians must be the reason therefor."

Many of the Indians speak English well, and drive an extensive barter with the Philadelphia merchants, as results, as one can well imagine, to the great profit of the merchant.

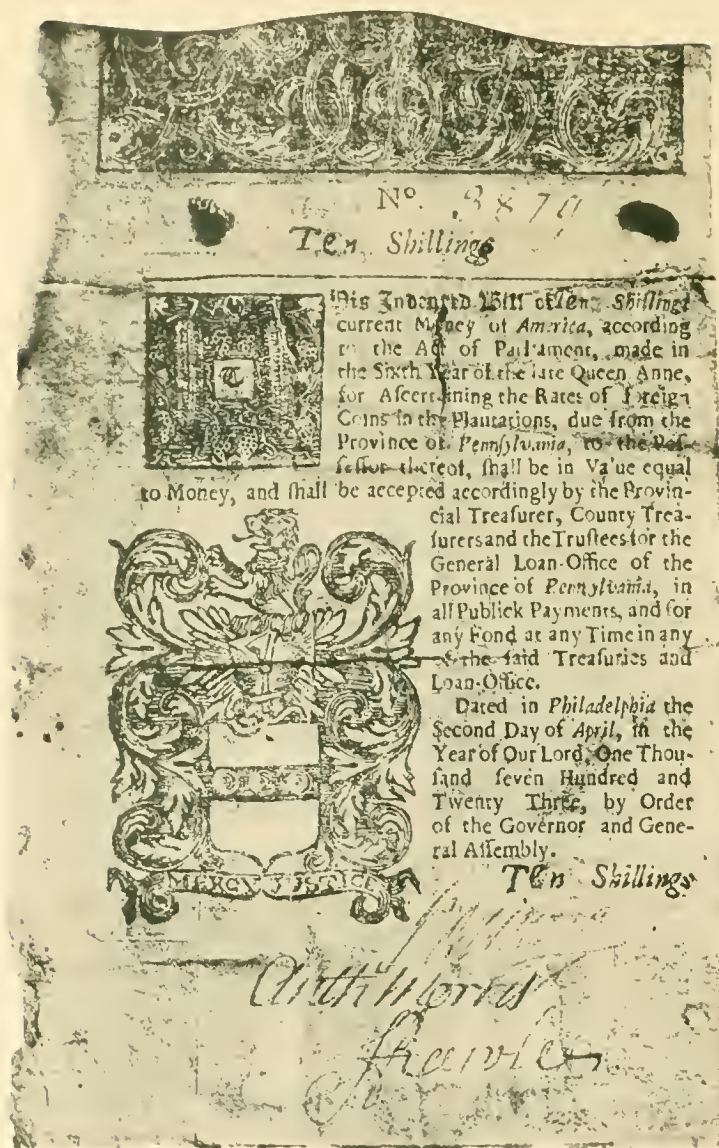
We have a good iron mine and foundry here, where the iron is run into pigs. It is also forged into bars and sent to England. But notwithstanding all this, implements made therefrom are very dear, thus a good axe brings two Rix dollars Berlin standard. The iron is very good, and as I hear is equal to the best Swedish product. Fine marble is also quarried here and sent to England.

The city of Philadelphia, upon the whole, is right decently laid out, and already pretty well built up, and much business is done there. Wine is very dear, tea also—Five Rix dollars for a pound of a very bad sort—tea (Bohia), coffee beans, although they do not have to come far, merely from Surinam, a pound at present is equal to 25 Groschen. Sugar such as is bought in Berlin for six Groschen, costs here twelve Groschen.—Summa—Every thing here is dreadful dear. Meat is still the best bargain here, with price about the same as in Berlin. Bread, rent and wood are dreadful dear. As to drink, water is the cheapest thing here and extraordinary good. The strong beer that is brewed in Philadelphia is very good, but not for me. The cider or applewine is rarely found good.





THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY.



INDENTED PAPER MONEY PENNSYLVANIA CURRENCY.

VIDE PAGE 23.

Molasses beer, which is chiefly drank in the country, is an exceedingly pleasant and thirst quenching beverage, which tastes better to me than the pure water. This beer is composed of water, syrup and hops, together with some wheat bran. In this country far more wheat is grown than rye, and wheat-bread is eaten in almost all places.

The administration of law and justice, as I am informed, is very good in this country, being patterned after that of England, and is administered promptly, in a manner that no complaint is heard from anyone that they did not receive justice.

Otherwise we have here the same old world as in Europe (excepting the honest Indians). Money, especially gold and silver, is rarely to be seen, on account of the scarcity of specie. Paper money was introduced a few years ago, but even this is scarce enough. But one occasionally sees a specimen of this money, it is about three fingers wide, and represents more than four Rix dollars. Often it is so torn and tattered that one can hardly handle it for fear that it will fall to pieces, but if one goes to the proper office it will be redeemed with a new note. If, however, one has the illfortune to have mice come over this money the loss would be irreparable. Moths, on account of the great heat here, are, as I hear, so terribly destructive, that they almost chew the clothing from off your body, provided it were possible to wear any, which is entirely impossible, as during the summer nothing can be worn but a shirt (except early in the morning and after sundown) and thin, long pantaloons which reach down to the feet. Shoes and stockings can only be worn in the evening.

O these Liars! who in their well-written and printed missives send us such glowing accounts about the climate

of this country and other things all described so beautiful and paradisaical, which deceived so many hundred people—even me—I would not like to share their just reward.

If I but had wings to fly, I would soon hie myself from hence to Europe, but I dread the tempestuous ocean and the pirates, dangers to which one is always exposed.

At the present time I am with very respectable people in the country, but do not know how long this will continue, and how it will eventually end, as I am not able to earn a farthing by manual labor, and in addition have a hectic fever, and no refecation can even be obtained for money. But I do know that the good Lord will not burden me beyond my strength.

C— is in Philadelphia but can hardly earn as much as he consumes. His wife is with him, but had a very hard journey, as she was under way from Hamburg for nine months suffering great misery. If their ship, as she says, had been at sea only eight days longer, all aboard would have died of starvation.

O! what a great hazard it is to undertake this journey, and the wonder is how persons for mere gain will take them repeatedly. Whosoever is well off in Europe better remain there. Here is misery and distress, same as everywhere, and for certain persons and conditions incomparably more than in Europe.

Here I know a devout hermit, the son of a noble and wealthy gentleman, who lives here in seclusion for twenty years. He has nothing but a small house, no acres, no garden—not even a tree, neither does he work to earn anything, but when anyone asks for his labor, he helps them willingly and assiduously. If anyone brings anything to him in his house, be it food, money or firewood, he takes it. As he says, he wants for nothing and is a

happy, contented man fifty-one years old. He says, among other things, that whatever we lack in this country we must replace with cheerfulness.

P. S. Of all those who embarked upon our ship none died. Four children were born upon the sea, of which two who were twins died, and were buried in the sea.







University of Pennsylvania Library  
Circulation Department

Please return this book as soon as you have finished with it. In order to avoid a fine it must be returned by the latest date stamped below.

VAN PELT

SEP 20 1995

5661

APR 20 1996

MAY 1996



3 1198 01861 0860



N/1198/01861/0860X



