

# THE MINERVA.

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FROM THE BALANCE.

## AMERICAN CAPTIVES IN TRIPOLI.

[The particulars of the unfortunate capture of the Philadelphia frigate by the Tripolitans, have already been before the public. Dr. Cowdery, who was on board the frigate, was taken in captivity with the rest of his countrymen; but from circumstances which will transpire in this narrative, he had the good fortune to be permitted to visit all parts of the town, and many curiosities in the country—to see the manners and customs of the inhabitants, and to learn their characters and dispositions. He kept a regular Journal from the time of his capture, to the time of his release, in which he noticed as minutely as circumstances would admit, every thing novel or remarkable. Since his return he has obligingly favoured us with a perusal of his Journal; and has given us permission to select some parts of it for our paper.]

[Balance.]

Extract from the Journal of Dr. Cowdery, kept during his captivity in Tripoli.

After the signal of the Philadelphia was struck, and the officers and crew was waiting the pleasure of their new masters, the Tripolitan chiefs collected their favourites, and with drawn sabres, fell to cutting and slashing their own men, who were stripping the Americans and plundering the ship.

They cut off the hands of some, and it is believed several were killed. After this battle amongst themselves was a little over, we were ordered into the boats to be carried on shore. One of the officers, whom I had taken by the hand, and who promised me his friendship, came to me, took me by the arm, and told me I must go.—I asked him to let my boy go with me, which he refused. I then took hold of my small trunk, which contained my best clothes. He gave me to understand that I could not take it, but should have every thing taken and restored to me. He took hold of my hand, and hurried me over the side of the ship, while his other hand was employed in rifling my pockets, from which he took about ten dollars.—I had concealed some gold in my clothes, which he did not find. I then went down into one of their boats from whence I was to pass into the next, which was almost full of our officers and men. I made all haste to get into it, for I observed the Turks in the boat where I was, were stripping my messmate Dr. Harwood, and the carpenter, Mr. Godby; but I was soon stopped by three of the Ruffians, who stood over me with drawn sabres and coked pistols, and wrestled my surlout from under my arm. Whilst they were picking its pockets, & quarreling with each other for the booty, I sprung for the next boat which was waiting for me. In my way, I met a little fellow, who seized me, and attempted to get off my coat, but I hurled him into the bottom of the boat, and jumped into the one which was waiting, amongst my fellow-officers, where I thought the Turks were more civil. They then set off for the town, compelling our men to row the boat, and standing with drawn sabres over our heads. When we had got near the shore, they ordered our men to stop rowing. Two of them came to me and gave me a severe blow on the side of the head. They then searched me, and took a case of surgeon's instruments from my pocket. They took my pocket book, but finding it containing nothing but papers, they returned it.—One took my silver pencil, and another the handkerchief from my neck. They then began upon Mr. Knight, sailing master, Mr. Osborne, lieutenant of marines, and all the officers in the boat, and plundered their pockets and took the handkerchiefs from their necks.—They then landed us at the foot of the Bashaw's palace, where we were received by a guard, who conducted us into the palace before the Bashaw. He viewed us with the utmost satisfaction; and had us conducted into an apartment where we found the captain and several officers, who arrived in another boat just before. Here was a table set in the European style. The servants appeared to be Maltese and Neapolitan slaves.—Here we supped, after which it was announced that another boat had arrived with our officers and men, who were before the Bashaw. Captain Bainbridge requested me to go & look for Dr. Harwood, whom it was feared was killed.—I found him with the carpenter before the

Bashaw, stripped of every thing but their shirts and trowlers. They afterwards informed us, that they were stripped in the boat where I lost my surlout; and when they got within a few rods of the shore, they were thrown into the sea, and left either to drown or swim ashore. The Bashaw's servant gave them dry clothes; and we were all again conducted before the Bashaw, and formed into a half circle. He was seated on his little throne, which was decorated in the Turkish order, and made a handsome appearance.—He is a good looking man, aged about 35. He counted us, viewed us with a smile, and appeared highly pleased with us. We were then conducted by the minister of exterior relations and a guard, to the house formerly occupied by the American consul—a very good house, with a large court, & roomy enough for our convenience. We were seated here about 9 o'clock in the evening. Capt. Bainbridge got permission from the Bashaw to tend for the Danish consul, who paid us a visit and offered every assistance in his power. We slept upon mats and blankets, spread upon the floor, which was composed of tiles.

Nov. 1.—This morning the Danish consul, Mr. Nissen, paid us another visit. Captain Bainbridge engaged with him to furnish us with provisions and such other necessaries as we might want. Our dwelling was furnished in a plain style, and we were supplied with fresh provisions, that were tolerably good. We were allowed to go to the front door, & to walk on the terrace or top of the house, which commanded a handsome prospect of the harbour, the sea, the town, the palace, and the adjoining country.—Here we could see our ship on the rocks, full of Turks, and surrounded by their boats, and a constant stream of boats going to, and bringing off the plunder of the ship. We could see those robbers running about town, with our uniform coats and other clothing on. The minister of exterior relations promised to be friendly, and collect as much of our clothing and effects as he could, and return them to us.

Nov. 3.—The Bashaw sent for the carpenter to go on board the ship; he went and found six feet water in the hold.—The carpenter's crew and fifty men were ordered and carried on board to work at night. A gale of wind and a heavy sea heve the ship off the rocks, and the carpenter returned.

Nov. 4.—In the morning Lieuts. Hunt and Osborne, and myself, were at the Danish consul's Observatory, on the top of his house, upon a plane with an adjoining ours, which together made a large and handsome walk. We were looking at the ship with Mr. Nissen's glass, when our drogerman came and informed us that the Bashaw had ordered us not to walk upon the terrace any more. We immediately returned to our house.

Nov. 5.—Our new masters came and closed up the passage which led to the top of the house; and a guard was set at the front door to prevent our going into the street. The minister sent his chief secretary with a parole of honor, written in French, which we all signed.

Nov. 6.—We found that we were not allowed to go out, notwithstanding our signing the parole of honor. The minister of exterior relations sent us word that he had got eight of our pistols, which we might have for twelve hundred dollars. We did not take them, nor thank him for his hospitality. We purchased new blankets, sent to us by the Danish consul. The English consul, Mr. McDonald, paid us a visit and offered us every assistance in his power.

Nov. 8.—The Jews purchased some of our clothing; and offered it to us at an enormous price; but we purchased but little of it. The bashaw sent for captain Bainbridge and told him that John Wilson had informed him that captain Bainbridge, before hauling down the colors, threw over nineteen boxes of dollars and a large bag of gold.—Capt. Bainbridge assured him it was false, and gave his word and honour that there was no money thrown over to his knowledge; but that the money in question was left at Malta. In the evening the Bashaw not being satisfied sent for the captain's servant, and ordered him to

go if he did not tell the truth concerning the money.—The boy denied having any knowledge of it. After repeating the threat several times, and the boy insisting on his not knowing any thing about the money, he was acquitted.—Wilson had turned traitor, and given the enemy all the assistance in his power. He now acts as overseer of our men.

Nov. 9.—Our captain established a credit with the Danish Consul, who supplied us with necessary provision, and with cloth for mattresses. A guard was posted at our door to prevent our going into the street, or purchasing any books or clothing.

Nov. 10.—Several Turks came in and informed capt. Bainbridge, that the bashaw had been told that capt. Rodgers, who commanded the U. S. frigate John Adams treated the Tripolitan prisoners taken last summer very bad, and that they feared we should suffer for it.

We have plenty of pomegranates, dates and oranges. The Danish Consul visits us every day.

Nov. 13.—The minister of exterior relations sent his drogerman to capt. Bainbridge and informed him that if he would send an immediate order to commodore Preble, to deliver up the Tripolitan prisoners captured by capt. Rodgers last summer, amounting to eighty in number, we might remain where we were but if we did not comply we should fair worse. Capt. Bainbridge replied, that he could not command commodore Preble, and therefore could not comply with his request. At 9 in the evening a Tripolitan officer came armed with two pistols and a sabre, and said, to-night, nothing; to-morrow, the cattle. We accordingly prepared for the cattle.

Nov. 14.—Breakfast early, to be ready for our new habitation. At 9 A. M. a guard came and ordered us to the cattle. We formed agreeably to rank and marched to the cattle. We were huddled into a gloomy cell amongst our men, where there was hardly room for us to stand. Here we spent the day without food, and were scoffed at by our foes until night, when to our happy surprize, we were conducted back to our old place of abode. The minister of exterior relations sent for Capt. Bainbridge, and affected great surprize at our going to the cattle, saying that he knew nothing of the measure; which we all knew to be false. He told capt. Bainbridge that we should remain where we were, until he heard from his people, the prisoners in the hands of the Americans.

Nov. 17.—Visited our sick,\* who were quartered in a small house without a floor, near the place, and about half a mile from our lodgings. The Danish consul supplied the sick with fresh provisions, by the request of Capt. Bainbridge.

Nov. 20.—The minister permitted us to purchase our clothes. We got but few and at a high rate. One of our men, by the name of Thomas Prince, turned Turk, and was admitted into the palace.

Nov. 21.—After visiting our sick, I was permitted to go with our drogerman about the town to purchase medicine, but found but a few articles. A man 416 years of age came to have me to cure him of deafness.

Nov. 21.—The Bashaw refused to furnish necessary clothing for the sick, or any thing for them to eat but four fishy bread, Capt. Bainbridge contracted with the Danish consul to supply the sick with beef and vegetables for soup every day.

[\* As this was Dr. Cowdery's daily practice, we shall omit the repetition of it.—Ed. Bal.]

## Legislature of North-Carolina.

House of Commons,  
Monday, Nov. 25.

Mr. Hornbuckle presented the petition of Mary Moreign, praying to be divorced from her husband, &c.—Referred to the Committee of Divorce and Alimony.

Mr. Jordan presented the petition of Malcolm Ferguson, praying to be divorced from his wife, &c.—Referred as above.

Mr. Moody presented the petition of Nancy Knight, praying to be divorced from her husband Murfree Knight, and praying also that her name may be alter-

ed to that of Nancy Hill; and a bill to carry the prayer of the petitioner into effect.—Referred as above.

Mr. J. Moore presented a Bill concerning Divorces and Alimony.—Read and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Whitehead presented the petition of Mary Warren, praying an allowance for Military services performed by her husband, &c.—Referred to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Hay presented the petition of Lochlan McKellen, and a bill to carry the prayer of the petitioner into effect.—Passed and sent to the Senate.

The resignation of Thomas Childs as Brigadier General of the 11th Brigade, was read and accepted.

Mr. James Jones from the joint balloting, reported that Dr. Nathaniel Alexander had a majority of votes for Governor.

Received from the Senate a Resolution requesting the Speakers of the two Houses to send an express to Nathaniel Alexander, informing him that he was elected Governor of this state, &c.—Read and concurred with.

Mr. Boazman presented the petitions of John Chelton, James Long, & James Wiley, praying compensation for services on board the armed ship Caswell.—Read and referred to the Committee of Claims.

The petition of Thomas Seabrook, & the petition ofundry inhabitants of Montgomery—Referred to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

The petitions of Wm. Erwin & Alexander Cameron were referred as above.

The resignation of John Colwell, as Major of Sampson, was read and accepted.

Received from the Public Treasurer the following Report:—

TO THE HONOURABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF N. CAROLINA;

GENTLEMEN,

The Receipts at the Public Treasury of North-Carolina, from the first day of November, 1804, to the first day of November, 1805, including arrearages, the public taxes of every description and the Cotton Gin tax, amount to twenty-five thousand three hundred and twenty-two pounds ten shillings and seven pence (£ 25,322 10 7):—This sum when added to the balance remaining in the Treasury on the first day of November 1804, to wit, to fifty six thousand and thirteen pounds seven shillings, as Reported to the last General Assembly, makes an aggregate amount of eighty one thousand three hundred and thirty-five pounds, seventeen shillings, and seven pence (£ 81,335 17 7).—Out of this aggregate or last mentioned sum, disbursements have been made, within the period first above mentioned, including the money burnt by the last Assembly. The stocks of the funds of the United States purchased for the use of this State, pursuant to a Resolution of the Legislature of December last; and the sum paid in obedience to the act of Assembly, entitled "An act to relieve certain of the inhabitants of Mecklenburg county and other citizens of this State," to the amount of thirty-eight thousand four hundred and eighty pounds three shillings and six pence.—the vouchers for all which are delivered over to the Comptroller, and are held ready for the inspection of the Committee of Finance. Deduct this expenditure or disbursement from the aggregate amount above mentioned, and a balance of forty-two thousand nine hundred and seventeen pounds fourteen shillings and one penny is left in the Public Treasury on the first day of November last. To be accounted for (£ 42,217 14 1). The most worn of the bills forming the balance or remainder, will be selected and held in readiness to be burnt, in case the Legislature shall think it advisable to destroy them and shall so direct.

The receipts at the Treasury for the year entered and paid for, amount, from the first day of November, 1804, to the first day of November, 1805, to the sum of three thousand three hundred and one pounds eight shillings & eight pence (£ 3,331 8 8):—This amount verified by certificates and other vouchers does not, therefore, effect the report of the Public Treasurer's General