

4. Thomas Nairne Reassures Prospective Settlers About the Environment and Trade of South Carolina, 1710

Air

The Air of *Carolina* is generally very clear and fine, even when the greatest Rains fall, the Weather does not continue long cloudy, for the Sun soon dissipates the Fogs, and restores the Air to its usual Serenity. During the Heat of Summer, the Rains are very refreshing and agreeable, and the Thunder that accompanies them, tho' naturally terrifying, is welcome upon Account of its rarifying the Air. Earthquakes have never yet been known, or heard of in this Country.

Temperature of the Months

The Heats of *Carolina* are indeed troublesome to Strangers in *June*, *July*, and *August*, in which Months are smart Claps of Thunder, tho' seldom doing any Prejudice. But the Inconveniency from the Heat during that Time, is made easie by shady Groves, open airy Rooms, Arbours, and Summer-houses; and to make some amends for it, no Country can afford pleasanter Weather, in the Spring, Fall, and greatest Part of Winter. *September*, *October*, *November*, are pleasant dry Months, neither hot nor cold. *December* and *January* are moderately cold, sometimes accompanied with sharp cold North-West Winds, and Frost, which seldom last above two or three Days at a Time. There is scarce ever any Snow, or if it does fall, it lies not above one Night. *February* and *March* are pleasant, fair, dry Months, answering in Temperature to *April* and *May* in *England*, which with us are very agreeable Months, the Weather being then clear and fair, refreshed with gentle Showers once in eight or ten Days, but equal in Heat in *June* and *July* in *England*.

Thomas Nairne, *A Letter From South Carolina* (London, 1710). "Trade" in Jack P. Greene, ed., *Selling a New World* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1989), 42–43.

Trade

The Trade between *South Carolina* and *Great Britain*, does, one Year with another, employ 22 Sail of Ships, laden hither with all Sorts of Woollen Cloaths, Stuffs, and Druggets, Linnens, Hollands, printed Linnen and Callicoe, Silks and Muslins, Nails of all sizes, Hoes, Hatchets, and all Kinds of Iron-ware, Bed-ticks, strong Beer, bottled Syder, Raisins, fine Earthen-ware, Pipes, Paper, Rugs, Blankets, Quilts, Hats from 2 s. to 12 s. Price, Stockings from 1 s. to 8 s. Price, Gloves, Pewter Dishes and Plates, Brass and Copper Ware, Guns, Powder, Bullets, Flints, Glass Beads, Cordage, Woollen and Cotton Cards, Steel Hand-mills, Grind-stones, Looking and Drinking Glasses, Lace, Thread course and fine, Mohair, and all Kinds of Trimming for Cloaths, Pins, Needles, &c. In return for which are remitted from hence about seventy Thousand Deer-skins a Year, some Furs, Rosin, Tar, Raw Silk, Rice, and formerly Indigo. But since all these don't balance the continual Demand of *European* Goods, and Negro Slaves, sent us by the *English* Merchants, there is likewise sent to *England*, some Cocoa-nuts, Sugar, Tortoise-shell, Money, and other Things, which we have from the *American* Islands, in return for our Provisions. Besides the 22 Sail above-mention'd, there enter and clear annually at the Port of *Charlestown*, about 60 Sail of Ships, Sloops, and Brigantines, all from some Places of *Africa* or *America*.

From *Jamaica*, *St. Thomas's*, *Currasso*, *Barbadoes*, and the *Le[e]ward Islands*, we have Sugar, Rum, Molosses, Cotton, Chocolate made up, Coco-nuts, Negroes, and Mon[e]y. In return whereof we send Beef, Pork, Butter, Candles, Soap, Tallow, Myrtle-wax Candles, Rice, some Pitch and Tar, Cedar and Pineboards, Shingles, Hoop-staves, and Heads for Barrels.

From *New-England*, *New York*, and *Pen[n]sylvania*, we have Wheat-flower, Bisket, strong Beer, Cyder, salt Fish, Onions, Apples, Hops; and return them ta[n]n'd Hides, small Deerskins, Gloves, Rice, Slaves taken by the *Indians* in War, some Tar and Pitch.

From *Made[i]ra* and the Western Islands, we have Wine, and in return, supply them with Provisions, Staves, and Heads for Barrels, &c. Our Salt comes from the *Bahama Islands*.

From *Guinea*, and other Parts of the Coast of *Africa*, are imported Negroe-Slaves; but the Ships that bring them being sent, with the Effects to purchase them, from *England*, the Returns are sent thither.