

Morocco May 24th 1785

In my last few Lines by return of y^e Fleet to Nice, I had only time to assure you I was well, and safely arrived in y^e Bay of Gibraltar, where I found a Moorish Ambassador from y^e Emperor, waiting to conduct me to Morocco.

From Capt^m Blanket, Lieut^t Hancock, a Hawkshaw, who all desired my permission to wait upon you and Daughters, you have no doubt heard the particulars of our three weeks Voyage, and y^e heavy gale we experienced for 48 hours in y^e singular Gulph of Lyons; also of my Landing, kind reception, and attention of General Elliot, wth whom I continued about a fortnight.

Gibraltar is y^e Ancient Moorish Name for our famous Garrison, and I must not pass unnoticed, a place which is y^e only glory of y^e last War and makes us still respected in y^e Mediterranean. A Gallery of 300 feet long with a noble Vaulted room at one end of it, diameter 35 feet, cut through ^{of a Rock} y^e middle, seven hundred feet high, mounting 24 Guns, commanding the Neutral ground which connects y^e Rock wth y^e Spanish Land, is a work worthy of Romans in their highest glory, and will be y^e lasting Monument of General Elliot. — This has been done since y^e Siege.

From Gibraltar I set sail for Tangier, where upon my Landing I was met at y^e Water side by y^e Governor, and his suite, wth his Men under Arms, and we were stunn'd by a discharge of all y^e Cannon. They then conducted me to my place of residence, and y^e most obliging complimented me wth their manner of

of hunting y^e Wild Boar, but I confess, I did not find any amusement in
the savage sport, which in description only would to you be disagreeable
therefore I shall omit it. Here I was under y^e necessity of staying till a
Boat was constructed for y^e purpose of conveying on Board y^e Guns, Provisions
and Carriages, that were to go wth me to y^e Emperor. — I then sail'd for
Mingadore, where I arrived in six days, and was received by a very pompous
Governor in y^e same style as at Tangier. — After a detention here of
some days, and writing a sublime Letter to y^e Emperor, his Imperial Majesty
sent me down an Order of fifty Horsemen, commanded by a principal
Alaide, and an order for y^e Governor himself to attend me to Morocco,
expressing much impatience to see me. — With their retinues and
my own, including y^e Officers who accompanied me from Gibraltar, we fix'd
a Camp of two hundred Men.

I should before have told you that upon my Landing here I found a
Swedish Ambassador wth a splendid train and great Presents, waiting the
Emperors order to proceed to Morocco. — But in a few days he was
totally eclipsed by y^e magnificent Embassy from Spain, y^e object of which
was to make y^e Emperor break wth us, and by an exclusive Trade cut off
all future intercourse between his dominions, and y^e Garrison of Gibraltar,
for y^e Spanish Monarch will never outlive y^e hopes of recovering it.

Don Francisco, Silanus, Monino, Pephew to Monino, first Minister to that
Court, was attended by a train of fifteen Gentlemen of distinction, two hundred
Soldiers, a Band of Musick, and immense Presents, five hundred Mules

and family, was scarcely sufficient to carry them, and his Baggage to
Morocco. — It would as if we were all come with our Offerings to appease
the God of War, that he might spare our poor Country; for it is an astonishing
truth, that all Europe is bowing down to this great Emperor, and bringing
him gifts; and here instead of finding myself in a gloomy, barbarous place,
I was in y^e midst of a considerable polished World, of well bred, agreeable
Men, particularly Morins; a pleasing fine young Spaniard, wth a vivacity
that did not seem to belong to his Nation. — Happily for me y^e African
Ambassador mark'd his preference for our Nation by first ordering me up to
his Court, which saved me some weeks absence from my family, whilst y^e other
two were oblig'd to wait untill my return to Mogadore.

After an agreeable Journey of six days, through a fine Country, abounding
in Corn and Oyl, we arriv'd upon a large Plain, within a League of y^e great
City of Morocco, which is not less than twelve Miles in circumference, half of
which is in ruins from y^e Plague which rag'd forty Years ago. — Here
all y^e Officers and great Men of y^e Court, attend'd by five hundred of the
Emperors Black Troops finely mount'd came to meet me in all the
Magnificence of Africa. — As soon as we appear'd in sight, they saluted
us with a general discharge of all their Muskets, they then gallop'd down full
speed passing them above their heads, in parties of twenty or thirty at a time,
and shooting short, within two Yards of us find fall in our Faces. — The
Alcove and great Men of y^e Court, at intervals, exhibited their skill, some in
attacking others in suddenly facing about and outling their pursuers, —
entertaining me wth continual firing. They were fine looking Men and all

Mount's upon beautifull Barb's and their graceful easy management of them
was admirable! Altho' 'twas hot, dusty, and marching at Noon-day under the
burning Sun in a Cloud of smoke, and almost suffocated with y^e smell of
Gunpowder, I did not think I paid too great a price for y^e pleasure I experienced
from their wonderful dexterity, and very fine Manœuvres in Military
Horsmanship. — The show continued, wth interludes of Trabelles & dances
and a Band of African Musick, till we reach'd y^e City, where I was saluted
by a discharge of all their Cannon. The Procession wth an addition of
five thousand more, for not a Person of any condition remain'd in
their Houses, conducted me by Palace of y^e late Muly Idris situated in
a delightfull Garden appointed for my residence during my stay at Morocco.

The transition from scorching heat, dust, and smoke, to cool Fountains
& view through an Archway of Mount Atlas' cover'd with Snow from y^e summit
to y^e base almost, of y^e Mountain, at about 12 Miles distance, and y^e shade
of Lemon, Orange, Pomgranate, and Palm Trees, wth y^e blinde sweets of Arabian
Favine, Orange Blossom, and Rose was inchanting; to these delicias I must
add y^e great number of Nightingales who are at this moment charming me
with their Song whilst I am sitting under a Palm Tree writing my Letter
— In short Mahomet had but one delight more to add to y^e Paradise
he promised by Faithfull.

The Emperor allow'd me three days rest before he appointed my first
Audience, during which time I apply'd myself to learn y^e political Charac^r du
trays, and some personal messages of civility pass'd, and His Majesty, as a
very particular mark of favour sent me a fine China Bowl of Cuscusee so large
that two Men brought it upon a Bear — On y^e fourth day I was conduct'd

in great form by Place of Publick Audiences, which is a large Square
Dwell'd in — After waiting some little time y^e Emperor came out of the
Mogge from his Prayer, mount'd a fine white Horse, and surrounded by
his Ministers and Generals, with his Guards forming an outward circle,
advanced towards me and I moved forward wth y^e Gentlemen who went
with me from Gibraltar, and my Parents on Mules, and Camels in y^e rear
to meet his Imperial Majesty. At sight of his sacred Person, his Guards
kiss'd y^e Ground and should, 'Long live y^e great Emperor,' and on my
kneeling y^e Kings Letter and y^e Presents their acclamations were repeat'd.
After a quarter of an hours conversation very like what passes in European
Courts, my Audience end'd.

Two days after, I had a private Audience, in which I gain'd some
important points. — Afterwards y^e Emperor appoint'd me to come to him in
his private Garden. He receiv'd me in one of his Pavilions, a kind of Chinese
Building in one of y^e severest storms of Thunder and Lightning I ever saw.
As I am not a Predestinarian, I was not altogether at my ease, but
his Majesty regard'd it not. He now laid aside y^e great Monarch, his
Interpreter and myself being only present wth him, and talk'd familiarly with
me, shew'd me his Maps, & Charts, said I must see more of Barbary before
my departure and visit Mount Atlas, graciously offering me an Escort of
Guards for y^e purpose, and that he would give orders to his People to show
me his Palace Anglor, and five Beds of Sulphur. — He then ask'd many
questions about y^e King of England, our Government, y^e American War, General
Milit, and Gibraltar, expressing his surprize at our thinking y^e possession of that
Garrison an object of such vast importance to us where there is no Harbour for

our Shipping, consequently of Mediterranean Squadron is always station'd
either at Naples, Nice, or Marseille whome he observ'd, of Port of Mahon, which
we had given up, was in his opinion of more value, as it would contain the
whole of our British Navy. — His Majesty made some other judicious
remarks, but a conversation of more than two hours, would be much too long to
repeat here. It suffices to say I found of Emperor a sensible intelligent Man,
about seventy years of age and in Person and Manner resembling of late
Lord Ove-Jarnd that I have had of happiness of pleasing him so well, that
I have receiv'd every mark of his approbation and favour, and gain'd every
point I wish'd. In short I may add without vanity, no Man has ever been
so receiv'd at of Court of Morocco.

Causes are best known by their effects, I have procur'd of recall of a
Morish Ambassador, who was set out for Gibraltar by demand General Elliot's
categorical answer, as to refitting his Majesty's Cruizers wth Sir Roger Curtis
had promised in of Kings Name should be done. This would have cost
Government between 30, and 40. thousand p.^{rs} a Year; but I have procur'd with
the Emperor to give it up. And I have endeavour'd to pacify him about the
English Frigate promised him at of same time for a Present which he told
me Sir Roger had cheat'd him of. — I have also procur'd his sending an
Ambassador to England, which has always been attend'd wth great expence
to our Nation, and brought him to leave his duties on Imports & Exports
from 10, to ten p^{rs} Cent, and above all, I have prevent'd a War with the
African Monarch and our Coast, which would certainly have happen'd if
I had not gone out to Barbary, or we must have fullfill'd Sir Roger Curtis's
promise to refit his Cruizers, either would have been a great evil; but

particularly a War wth y^e Emperor, which would have ruin'd y^e Levant and
Mediterranean Trade, involving above six hundred of our Merchants,
And moreover, I have open'd a door to a very extensive Trade between the
two Countries.

In justice to y^e present Emperor, I must acquit him of y^e Crimes that
have falsely been imputed to him, but it is certain some of y^e former ones did
exceed his savage Barbarity in performing themselves y^e Office of Execution;
but this Man has y^e Character of humanity from his People, who assure me
he was never known to put any one to death wth his own hands, as we have
heard he did, on y^e contrary, he is wthhold when an Execution is to take place,
which he never allows but in his Presence in order to prevent y^e Governors
of y^e different districts from exercising any barbarity upon y^e Criminals, should
they be so disposed. — Upon these occasions y^e Monarchs always wear
his Yellow coloured Robes.

During my stay here his Majesty liberat'd several American
Slaves, giving them money to defray their expences into their own Country.
I must necessarily be detain'd here some time longer, which I should not
regret were you and my Children wth me in this charming Place, and Climate,
on y^e contrary be sorry to leave it, but Heaven would not be Heaven to me
without you all, — I hope ere this you have received my little parcel of
Gibraltar Diamonds, and given one of y^e papers to Prince Sophia. — They are
cut out of y^e Rock exactly as you see them, cut and polished as it were, by art
and altho' the sort of value are matters of curiosity. — I have this morng
received a few Lines from dear Fanny inclosing your welcome, interesting
Letter, which I will answer fully next week. — In y^e mean time, exert your
utmost power to expose by Duke and D^{ch} of Gloucester my sense of their unbecom-
kindness and attention to you and yours. — With regard to their wishing you

to pass them at Geneva in July, I have only to observe, it will increase y^e distance
between us and retard our Letters, however you est bin le Maître and let me
know your determinations soon. If tis to remain at Nice till my arrival,
I will endeavour to make you all amends, by passing some days with their
Royal High's in our return to England which will not make any material
difference wth respect to time, and not above two days Journey additional
expense. The Chamber they have given you is a great acquisition, as you
will now ascend y^e Mountain and explore y^e beautiful and sublime Scenes
of Nice and its environs with safety which you could not have done in
your Couch.

I shall expectantly expect your next packet, and hope to receive from
each of my Children an answer by Letters I have inclos'd to them.

Upon my kind friends at Nice, I am much pleas'd by their particular
inquiries of me. I shall gladly comply wth Lord Binnings request
and write him a little account of this Country, y^e Inhabitants, Commerce, &c. &c.
Had his Lordship & L^{dy} Christoford accompanied me as they wish'd to Morocco
they would have been highly gratified by seeing some of y^e finest Horses in the
Universe for beauty, strength and size. I am delight'd wth y^e description
of your Land excursions, and y^e day you pass'd at D^e Castas Paradise which
I wish you often to revisit, also Cimiza Sth Andria, but I trust your
Mediterranean parties are only in certain Weather.

I have perswaded you all, most unwillingly now I must bid you Adieu,
Disquiet not yourself about y^e Gulf of Lyons, for should it be late in the
Season when I return I will certainly visit that boiling Ocean, by coming from
Gibraltar through Spain.

Ever Yours
George Payne

M^{rs} Payne