NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Father Bombo’s Pilgrimage

In the autumn of 1770, at the end of their junior year at Nassau Hall in Princeton, Philip Freneau and Hugh Henry Brackenridge, both of whom were subsequently to find literary fame in late eighteenth-century America, collaborated in writing a “novel.” Only a portion of “Father Bombo’s Pilgrimage to Mecca in Arabia” survives, in a manuscript notebook once the property of the authors’ college-mate, William Bradford of Philadelphia. Of this portion, book three of volume two, Brackenridge’s contribution, the first chapter, has already been printed as “the earliest example of American prose fiction,” foreshadowing “certain features of Brackenridge’s later narrative writing.” Freneau’s part in the collaboration, chapters two and three and an epilogue, is also of importance as the one production of his collegiate career which we may be sure comes to us in its original form, as he wrote it then.

Like Brackenridge, who was later to find in Modern Chivalry (1792, 1793, 1797) place for the Irish brogue which he as a student introduced into his portion of “Father Bombo’s Pilgrimage,” Freneau also employed devices and exhibited attitudes which he was subsequently to develop in verse and prose. Over the pseudonym “R. Bombo” he wrote an essay on “Luxury,” just as over the

1 MS. Am. 0336, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This notebook is also of interest because it contains “Satires Against the Tories,” doggerel verse by Freneau, Brackenridge, James Madison, and (possibly) Bradford, all members of the American Whig Society at Nassau Hall, directed against their collegiate rivals, the members of the Ciosophic Society. A partial exposition of these satires will be found in Lewis Leary, That Rascal Freneau (Rutgers, 1941), 31-33, and in Claude Milton Newlin, The Life and Writings of Hugh Henry Brackenridge (Princeton, 1932), 10-14.
3 Ibid., 15.
4 Except, of course, the controversial “Satires Against the Tories,” “The History of the Prophet Jonah,” “The Adventures of Simon Swaugun,” “The Pyramids of Egypt,” “The Power of Fancy,” and other verse, the composition of which Freneau later attributed to his collegiate period, were not printed until many years later, most of them in his Poems of 1786. They are, therefore, of dubious value in forming any exact estimate of his student literary achievements.
pseudonyms "Robert Slender," "Tomo Cheeki," and "Christopher Clodhopper" he was later to write essays on any number of subjects in post-Revolutionary American newspapers. In the epilogue he gives first authentic evidence of concern with the evanescence of all things, particularly the transitory nature of human life, and with the panacea of "retirement" from the busy stress of active affairs to some rustic retreat—two themes, borrowed from his poetic masters of eighteenth-century England, which were to appear again and again in his more mature writings. Finally, throughout all of Fren- eau’s contribution to "Father Bombo’s Pilgrimage" there is evident a youthful aristocratic bias which the poet, like his later patron, Thomas Jefferson, was never quite to lose, in spite of his whole- hearted adult service in the cause of the “common man” of America.

Exaggerated, ridiculous, and full of youthful bombast though it is, "Father Bombo’s Pilgrimage" is worthy of preservation just as it was written, not only for what it suggests of nascent attitudes, but because it contains the earliest known writings of two of our earliest American men of letters. The punctuation, the spelling, the paragraphing, the grammar, the capitalization of Freneau’s contribution to the narrative, printed below, have, therefore, not been tampered with. The editor has taken the sole liberty, in a few border-line cases, of determining, in the light of clarity and modern conceptions of correctness, whether a jot at the end of a grammatical unit was meant by the writer to be a period or a comma.

The titlepage of the narrative reads: Father Bombo’s / Pilgrimage to Mecca in Arabia / Volume II. / Wherein is given a true account of the innumerable and surprizing adventures which befell him in the course of that long and tedious Journey. / Till he once more returned safe to his native Land as related / by his own mouth. / Written By H. B. and P. F.—1770. /

——— mutato nomine
Fabula de te narratur—Hor.

——— Change but the name
The Story’s told of you ———

MDVIIlXX
The story told in Brackenridge's contribution,\(^5\) initialed "H. B." and dated "September 20: 1770," may be summarized, thus:

Father Bombo, a bold traveller in a red wig, is (after misadventures at which we can only guess) made prisoner on board a French vessel, which is soon afterwards overcome by an Irish privateer. Taken prisoner by the Irish, Bombo pretends to be a countryman ill-used by the French. He impresses the Irish captain with his profundity as a scholar and is given the run of the ship. The sailors, however, are sure he is a wizard and, a storm having arisen for which they consider his sorcery responsible, they clap him in a hogshead and throw him overboard. He is washed ashore. "I now found myself my dear brethren in the North of Ireland without house or home, books to read or a Wigg to my head. But the manner in which I behaved and the adventures which befel me among the Wild Irish shall be the Subject of the Ensuing Chapter."

_Duke University_  
LEWIS LEARY

_Mr. Bombo's Pilgrimage to Mecca_  
*Book 3d: Chap. 2d: Sept. 27: 1770.*

But he, deep musing, o'er the mountains stray'd  
Thro' woodland thickets and the rural shade  
Popes Homers Odess.

Say, to what distant regions must I go?  
In ev'ry Land Ulyses [sic] finds a foe  
idem.

_Dear and worthy brethren!_  
When I was fully assured that I could not overtake the Irishmen, I made the best of my way over bogs and hills hoping to find some

\(^5\) Although the contributions of each young author are initialed, apparently by the authors, the complete text of the narrative is in the handwriting of one person, a handwriting very much more like that of Freneau than that of Brackenridge. Because the notebook in which the narrative is found belonged to William Bradford, we are perhaps justified in assuming (and the assumption is borne out by a comparison with other examples of Bradford's hand) that Bradford, a sophomore, wrote at the dictation of his two upper classmen friends. If this is true, errors of punctuation, spelling, paragraphing, and capitalization are on young Bradford's head: the same mistakes are found (for example, recieve, Wigg, sometimes Wig) in all the chapters; many of the corrections in the manuscript concern the changing of such words as "host" to "Toast," of "and" to "an," of "write" to "right," which is a type of mistake more apt to be made in receiving dictation than in composing. I am inclined, however, to be cautious on this point: there is some similarity between the early handwriting of Freneau and Bradford.
hospitable place where I might rest my weary head which was now entirely [sic] bare for want of my Wigg; then I travelled near two miles when being unable for to find out the dwelling of any human being I resolved to return to my hogshead and pass the night there as in it I had a comfortable nest of Straw and hay. Accordingly when I reached the Shore, it being almost dark and the Weather rainy, I bounced into it and launching from the shore I determined to risque the casualties of these Irish Seas once more6 hoping that I might in time be driven on some inhabited and civilized Shore; I forgot to tell you my brethren, that I found a bed of potatoes in the Excursion I made into the country. I gathered near a bushel of these in my Sleeves & brought then down to my hogshead. These were all my Sea Stores and with these alone I put off to Sea: But to return, as soon as I got in my newfashion'd Vessel I was borne away from the Shore by the incredible rapidity of the Current7 But shutting my Scuttle I slept as secure as a mouse in a cheese,8 when the morning came I put my head out and was surprized to see a sloop coming full Towards me. At first I had no expectation of saving myself as not being master of the least kind of defence any way, I however betook myself to a Stratagem, and as soon as they came near me and had hoisted out their boat to fetch me on board, I hallooed with all my Strength, Ho! by my Troth, I am a Wizzard, as cunning and mischievous as the Devil himself. If you offer me the least injury or attempt to fetch me on board in your Yawl, I'll raise a Storm in an instant and send you all to the bottom without mercy. These threats effectually disconcerted their design upon me, and they passed me with all haste fearing the performance of my promises; after this adventure I bounced about several days, The weather continuing stormy altho' my Cask was exceeding tight. I was however upon my allowance as to provisions, being stinted to the Rascally pittance of Four potatoes per day and having nothing but the Sea water to drink; The last morning but one I continued at Sea I opened my Scuttle and looking about I percieved [sic] a box floating on the Water at a distance. I therefore in an instant clapped out my paddle and coming up with it, I found it to be close nailed on every Side, by

6 The words “once more” are inserted above the line after “Seas.”
7 The word “Current” is inserted above the deleted word “Curr[ant??].”
8 The word “but” is deleted before “when.”
the Weight and appearance of it I suspected it to be no inconsiderable booty and as it was of no great bulk I hauled it into my Cabbin designing to know the contents of it when I came on Shore: The next day I perceived Land and towards night found myself at the mouth of a small, tho' navigable river, up which I was carried by the force of the Tide, and As it was an impossibility to stop my career I was drove violently amongst a parcel of sharp headed rocks which were near the Shore and my hogshhead being dashed to pieces in an instant I and my box were left to shift for ourselves. I however clasped it in my arms and swam with all my Strength towards the Shore, which I at last reached with no other inconvenience than swallowing two or three Gallons of Salt water. I now immediately looked out for a sharp stone which having found I broke open my box and to my unspeakable Joy found that it contained my Wallet of books and also my red Wigg, which the Captain of the Irish privateer had thrown overboard instead of burning them as I imagined. Without making any words about it I clapped my Wig on my head and Wallet over my Shoulders and travelled towards a house I saw at a distance which when I reached I asked a man that stood by the door, What part of the world I was in? He seemed at first a good deal surprized, but gave me to know that I was in the county of Donnegal in the province of Ulster in the N. W. part of Ireland; I then asked him what the name of that River was, meaning the one I was Shipwrecked in? That river, answered he, in the Irish Dialect, is called Lough Swilly—The Devil, said I, to myself, am I in Ireland yet, am I never to get out of this cursed place? I then made a motion to enter the house signifying thro' the whole course of my behaviour, that my Stomach would feel much better than it did at present, if I had any thing to eat. The man however, did not seem very fond of introducing me as he had a most cursed Scold of a Wife in the house, whose tongue made every thing ring again when it began to work, but all this could not hinder me from pushing in, which End, as soon as I had accomplished, the Dogs and cats that lay about the fire, flew at me with the most terrible rage and would have torn me in a thousand pieces had I not wielded my Staff like a man of courage and

9 The word "found" is deleted after "I."
10 The word "great" is inserted above the deleted word "considerable."
11 The suffix "ly" is inserted above the word "violent."
resolution, so that I layed one Dog dead on the spot and maimed a Whippet, one furious cat however stuck in my Wig with her claws and would not leave it till she had brought it with herself to the floor. I then Snatched it up and siezing her by the Tail swang her near forty Yards from the house in the heat of my fury. The Family, and in particular this modern Xantippe I mentioned, did not seem much pleased with the Havock I had made in the Family but I not caring three pence for any of them I took a chair and sitting myself down by the fire waited impatiently for Dinner time—At last, my belly prompting me to it, I cryd out, Do you intend to dine here to day? Yes! quoth one of them and whats that to you? Whats that to me! replied I, a strange Question indeed, Why I have lived upon nothing but raw potatoes and salt water these three weeks—Ay, said the man, you have come to a wrong place to pacify your Stomach, we are poor people and have scarcely provisions enough for ourselves. Yet as I see you look very lank and emaciated, if you will go out into the bog and gather Turf for three or four hours, I will bring you something to eat. This proposal I complied with and he sending two or three boys with me to the bogs, I tore up the Turf like a Giant so that when the man came with my promised repast he was really surprized, and gave me the victuals cheerfully which I devoured in three or four minutes and felt perfectly satisfied. He then advised me to continue my Journy up into the country as he declared I could upon no pretence return to his house, as his wife was resolved to shoot me if I once more came within Gun shot of it, besides, continued he, the people in the inland parts of the country are rich and consequently much more charitable to Beggars than we who live along the Shore and are extremely indigent. Beggar, Sir, said I. Zounds do you call me a beggar? take care what you say—! He then begged pardon for his mistake and left me, while I pursued my Journy thro' the woods for two days and at the End of this Time I found myself in a well cultivated part of the Country full of inhabitants and houses. I made up to one of these and was hospitably recievied and entertained. being asked what Countryman I was? An Irishman, faith, by all means, said I, imitating the brogue of the

12 The phrase “in the Family” is inserted after “made.”
13 The pronoun “I” is deleted before “waited.”
14 The phrase “in this place” is deleted after “stomach.”
Irish as much as I could—Ay, said the person who questioned me, and what Occupation do you follow? I am a Schoolmaster, may it please your honour said I, I teach all kinds of Languages ancient and modern, all the Sciences that are found out and are at present held in esteem among the Learned, in short there is no branch of Science but what I am a perfect master of—Ay said he and are you such a remarkable Scholar then? in troth am I answered I, I understand the Conic Sections. Well, says he, it is a thousand pities that a person of your knowledge should meet with no preferment in the world. I know of a School amongst the wild Irish about 14 miles distant from here, which now lies vacant for want of a master. I make no doubt if you are any ways expert in your business you may get the mastership of it. Arra my dear, answered I let me alone for that, I'll lay you a shilling I have the School in my possession in two days time. Well, said he, I wish you good Luck in your Enterprize. Thank you, Sir, answered I, and can't we have something to drink on the strength of it. at these words he brought out a bottle of Brandy and handing it to me desired me to name a Toast. Here a health to brave Ireland said I, wishing your Lands may produce a noble Crop of potatoes this Year—That's well, said he; and after we had drank sufficiently I departed towards my intended School and having arrived into the county of Antrim wherein it was situated, I enquired for the wild Irish School and was told I was then within a mile of it and within half a mile of the house of one of the Trustees, there I immediately steered my course and when I came to the door, I enquired if the Governor of the School were at home, and being answered in the affirmative I walked in and desired to see him. I am the person, answered an old crooked backed man, I am he and pray what want you with me. I am a Gentleman, said I, and a Schoolmaster, I have heard your School is vacant since the decease of your former master, and in consequence thereof have come hither to fill his chair. You have heard very right answered he, and perhaps your design in coming is Good, but before you can be promoted to this Scholastical See you must undergo a very strict and accurate Examination—content, said I, and what will you give me by the Year? Ten pounds replied he, has been the Salary heretofore, but

15 The word “host” is deleted before “Toast.” See note 5 above.
16 The letter “d” is deleted from the word “and” to make “an.” See note 5 above.
if we find you are any how extraordinary in the faculties of the mind you shall have twenty Shillings more in reward of your great diligence and Study in the time of your Youth. Very well, said I, a noble Salary, pray let my Examination come on immediately: he then sent for the other two Trustees, for himself and these made up the whole number—and in the mean time, said I, after a person has kept your School three or four Years is there no hopes of any other preferment in Church or state? Ay, Ay, quoth he, if you get a black coat and a Grey Wigg instead of that red one, and put on a demure countenance and throw out scraps of Latin heartily, you may in time have the Good fortune to arrive to the Dignity of an Irish priest—Yes Yes quoth I, I understand you, and what may such a Living be worth per annum? Thirty four pounds said he, but including all your perquisites and presents, it may amount to near Seven and thirty. Pies and pigeons, said I, who knows but I may yet be a priest? Very probable said he if you behave well—By this time the Trustees were arrived who excused themselves for their long Stay on account of their being obliged to dig a few bushels of Potatoes to send to market tomorrow. Well continued they is this the Gentleman that has proposed himself for a Schoolmaster Yes answered I, and I dare say you will be pleased with my knowledge and method of Government. Ay, said they, we shall soon know that but in the first place we think it our duty to inform you that we must Examine you on Latin, Greek, Anatomy, Natural Philosophy and Metaphysics, you must also compose a Declamation in our presence, lest if you was to do it alone and by yourself, you would steal it out of those books you carry. Never fear that, answered I, I reckon myself as keen a compositus as any in the Kingdom, but let your Examination come on I am tired of waiting for it. Then they had a hunt through the house for proper books, but found it impossible to come across any till I pulling out my Xenophon, said, Gentleman here is the Life of St Patrick in Greek. Examine me where you please in it. They accepted my offer and turning to the fifth page where Xenophons preface Ends they ordered me to construe and give them a Literal English of the beginning of this Saint’s Life—I accordingly took the book in my hand and attempted to read the Greek but found it utterly impossible as I had forgot the characters. Well Gentlemen said I, I am very dim sighted at present I wish you would allow me
to read the English right off without giving you the Trouble of Listening to the Greek. This they agreed to and I read as follows—St Patrick is said to be the Father of a certain Gentleman who having spent his Youth in Ireland passed over to England and stayed there the rest of his Life in quality of a vendue master; by all records ancient and modern that are yet extant, he was very expert in his business and sold Goods greatly to the advantage of the owners, once however he was detected in a thievish action in endeavouring to steal a Gammon of Bacon which was to be exposed to sale—Very well said they, you are a compleat Scholar in Greek, we therefore make no question of your knowledge in Latin. Patrick Mο Swinny said one of them Examine him on Anatomy—Patrick took the hint and questioned me as follows—How many Ribbs are there in the human body—? Four and Twenty on each side answered I, which by the rules of Arithmetic Artists have found to be altogether Forty Eight—Very well said Patrick. Patrick Mο Swinny, said Neal OBryan, The Gentleman is certainly wrong he means the number of Teeth are four and Twenty in each Jaw consequently the Sum will be 48—Arra, by my Shoull said I, dont misunderstand me I meant to say the Teeth—Ay, said Mο Swinny, and I meant to ask you how many teeth a person has. Well done, said they, this is compleatly done—in the next place said Patrick, how do you find the number of 17 nails a person has? By multiplying the means and Extremes together and dividing the Quotient by the answer said I; Very well, said he and how many do you find them to be? Four and twenty, said I, including the Thumb nails. This they agreed was right and now the next thing that came in course was Natural Philosophy which Neal OBryan questioned me on thus. What is the End and design of Natural Philosophy? The End and Design—Ay the End of it is Surely to inform our minds, and the Design of it to instruct us in the Knowledge of Sublunary things. Very well said he, What is the reason the Nine Planets constantly go round the Sun? Because they move in circles. Can you name the Planets? Yes—Mars, Leo, the Waterpot, Jupiter and his Ring, The Crab, Venus and her belts, The Earth and the Moon which are both equal to one planet, Scorpio &c. Well done, said they, you are an admirable Scholar and have nothing

17 The word “Toe” is deleted before “nails.”
to be examined on now but The Metaphysics—Daniel Macwigger said OBryan Examine him on the Metaphysical studies—He began his Questions thus—Do you believe you are really a living man and that you are now standing here before me? Yes faith, and would I not be a great fool to think otherways? Ay, this is a bad Sign, unless you deny this you can by no means be admitted to the School—. Let us see, answered I—did’nt [sic] you ask me whether I believed I was in Existence? Yes—And what did I answer? You said you did not believe this—Oh-h-h, Mr Macwigger you misunderstood me, by Mahomet, I meant to say that I did not believe I was standing here and talking with you—Ay very well, said he, and do you really believe you are nothing but a mere idea, nothing but a shadow and immaterial something—Yes Sir, I verily believe all this as much as I do the Alcoran—The Olk-horan, interrupted he what mean you by that?—a small book answered I which was wrote some years ago by a famous prophet and which is undoubtedly true—but continued I, I hope Gentlemen you will not oblige me to teach this Doctrine of ideas openly in the School for if the Scholars once get a hint of it, they would flog me without mercy for the least harshness I should use towards them. Ay said they, you may keep it private if you reverence and pay any regard to your own ribs—Patrick MacSwinny and Neal OBryan, said Macwiggin, dont you think this Gentleman is fit for his promotion? Yes quoth they, but he has to write his dissertation yet; Ay Ay thats right said he, heres pen, ink and paper, write us down a Declamation in a moment—I accordingly scrabbled off the following piece on Luxury—

Luxury is that faculty of the human mind whereby we are tempted to desire to eat and drink more than is proper and beneficial to the Stomach; I myself have been guilty of this fault too often for which I now humbly ask the pardon of this whole Family and am determined to reform as soon as I get into the peaceable and quiet possession of my School, but when a person with a voracious appetite

18 The scoffing attitude here indicated would suggest that Freneau, at least, did not take with any great seriousness the wave of religious revivalism which swept over Princeton in 1770, and which is said to have disturbed President Witherspoon because of its tincture of Berkeleian idealistic philosophy (see Woodbridge Riley, *American Philosophy: The Early Schools*, New York, 1907, p. 227).

19 The word "right" is inserted above the deleted word "write." See note 5 above.
sees any dish desireable to the Taste it is a hard matter to refrain
from devouring it by himself. For my own part I am a great Lover
of boiled pigeons and young turtle doves, not to mention Roasted
Lamb, Pullets, Capons, Geese, Turkies &c which I admire exceed-
ingly—I hope Gentlemen if I undertake the management of this
School, you will supply me plentifully with these Utensils without
which I shall have no spirit to carry on matters: There is one thing
I had almost forgot to mention, and that is, I desire that I may dine
once every week on cold pork which I love as well as I do my own
self. As to Liquor, I expect to be treated constantly with the best
kinds as this will be the main hinge on which the Success of my
School will turn. That I may be plentifully treated with all these
things is the serious and earnest request of your friend to serve

R. Bombo

Well done, said Neal OBryan, when I had read it aloud to them.
The Subject and stile is excellent. I perceive your belly is the
Hero of all your performances of this kind—Ay and I believe so
too said I. Without making many words brethren I was in a few
days established in my School and sat in a large Chair like a Justice
of Peace, being at the head of near forty Scholars, but I found them
a most untractable race incapable of imbibing the Good instruction
I constantly endeavoured to instill into them. This obliged me to
use great Severities with them, whaling them with Rope Ends con-
tinually and knocking them down with my Fists which so enraged
them that at the End of about two months from my first taking
charge of the School they had formed a compleat conspiracy against
me which was Executed to my Sorrow in the following manner. I
came to the School in the morning and continued there with them
till near Evening flogging them after my old manner, but now as I
was walking backwards and forwards over the floor, some of them
catched me by the Heels with a Cart Rope and brought me flat on
the Ground in a moment, then they all fell upon me and having tied
me hand and foot gave me one of the most severe drubbings that
I have ever had since I saw the blessed Light of the day then placing
me on a cow they rode me above Seven miles thro' the country over
bogs and bushes and then letting me down tyed my body to a tree

20 The letters "wou" [would?] are deleted before "will."
and left me, but I, as soon as they were gone, pulled out my knife and cutting the rope, set myself at Liberty. Then, as it was dark I laid myself down to Sleep and continued in that state till morning, when not being able to return to the Trustees to punish these Rebels, for want of knowing the way back, I travelled directly forward meeting with various inhabited and well cultivated places, but the people were most remarkably un hospitable so that from the Time I left my School till I reached the Sea Side on the N. E. of Ireland I never slept under any other canopy than that of the all spacious heavens. When I first saw the Sea I was on a high mountain almost dead for want of Food and contemplating on my wretched fate I resolved to leave their rude country and pass over to Scotland where I expected to meet with better usage than heretofore as I have a little Scotch blood in my Skin, but in the midst of these melancholy reflections I composed the following Song on my hard fate and the inhospitality of these wretched Irish—

Sweet are the flow’rs that crown the Vale,
   And sweet the spicy breathing Gale
   That murmurs o’er the hills:
See how the distant lowing throng
   Thro’ verdant pastures move along,
Or drink the Limpid Streams and crystal rills.

Ah see in yonder gloomy Grove
   The Shepherd tells his tale of Love
   And clasps the wanton fair:
While winds and trees and Shades conspire
   To fann with Love the Gentle Fire,
And banish every black and boding care

But what has Love to do with me
Unknown ashore, distressed by Sea,
   Now hast’ning to the Tomb;
Whilst here I rove, and pine, and weep,
   Sav’d from the fury of the deep
To find alas on shore a harder doom

21 The word “and” is inserted above the line after “tree.”
Ye Cruel Fates that guide my ways
And Spin too long my Length of days,
Ah draw this Scene of Strife!
Come fatal Sisters of the dead
Prepare to cut the slender thread
Of this Long tedious tragedy my Life.

Exposed to all the rage and hate
Of ev’ry nation, ev’ry state
I sigh and weep alone
Ev’n now the woods and rising Grounds
Re-echo to the doleful Sounds
And mimic ev’ry Sigh and ev’ry Groan.

I hate these bow’rs and sweet Cascades
That flourish in Hiberian Shades
The people are unkind
Regardless of the Pilgrims fate
They plague my Life with Scorn and Hate
And send my pray’rs to whistle in the wind!

Yet shall their Guilt in Terrors rise
And bring my Ghost before their Eyes
If on this hill I die:
Yes—witness thou soft Gliding flood:
Tis here I die for want of food—
For want of food my very Jaws are dry

What Horror shall possess the breast
Of him that Scorns the Stranger Guest
And drives him from his door
Ah cease my Song and oaten flute
Be thou, my voice forever mute
My Stomach tells me I can sing no more.

After I had Sung this Chorus my dear brethren I pacified my Stomach a little with some green apples I found on a Tree, and now having gathered fresh strength, I descended from the Hill and made towards the Sea Side where I saw many Fishermen catching the Scaly fry in their Nets; as I had a small quantity of money in my
Wallet, I bought several fish and then kindling a fire on the Shore roasted and Eat them to my hearts content; I then traversed the Shore backwards and forwards enquiring for a passage to Scotland but could not hear of any—But how I got there and my adventures in that country shall be the subject of some future discourse— Septemb. 22d: 1770 P. F.

_Mr. Bombo's Pilgrimage_

I Care no more for Thracia. 

Anacreon. 

Chap: 3d:

I had not been long on the Shore when I perceived [sic] a Sea Schooner coming full sail out of a river which as they told me was freighted with Potatoes and sailing at present for the Northern Islands of Scotland. By various methods & means I prevailed upon a Waterman to put me on board her whom I rewarded with no other Gratuity than bare thanks. As soon as I entered on board I informed the Captain and sailors that I had not a Farthing of money in my pouch, but continued I, if the proposal is any ways acceptable to you I will serve in the office of Cook till we reach our intended haven. I was then Entered on board in the qualification I mentioned and in Two or three days we arrived at an Island they called Mull. Here the schooner left me and I sometime afterwards was carried in a large Canoe to a Port lying in the Western parts of Scotland The name of which however I cannot at present remember. To make short of the matter brethren I shall inform you that I stayed above two Years in the Island of Britain travelling about doing various kinds of work, one while I was a Wool Comber, another Time a Watchman, again a Beggar &c but at the End of this Time I found myself in the Suburbs of the Famous and most ancient city of London. I stayed here several months experiencing many surprizing and comical adventures, but my dear brethren, I believe I am as weary by this time of relating my tedious history as you are of hearing it. I shall therefore but slightly touch upon the remaining part of my adventures and so conclude, I hope, to our mutual Satisfaction and Good liking. To proceed—I took passage in a boat from the River Thames to the Port of Dieppe in France, from hence I travelled on foot to the South-
ern parts of Italy having suffered much in my long Journey by Thieves, Robbers and Banditti. I cant omit to tell you with what Pleasure I traversed the Streets of the famous city Rome and how I was struck with admiration at the mighty Ruins and superb Structures that are scattered up and down this ancient place— Having now arrived at a Place ancienstly called Tarentum I took shipping for the River Nile in Egypt in quality of a Cabbin boy. This Voyage brought me very low, and I lay several days at Deaths Door but happily I recovered in a short time and sailed up the River Nile as far as the ancient Memphis where we landed; I stayed here a few days and prosecuted my Journey with all imaginable haste towards Mecca, travelling, after the three first days from my setting out, with the Caravan which overtook me on the Road. As soon as they overtook me, I let them know that I was a Pilgrim travelling on a religious account to the city of Mecca: No sooner had I uttered these words but I was embraced by a great number of Pilgrims, and mounted with some other brethren on a Camel where I was carried at my Ease, the only inconvenience worth taking notice of in this Journey was the want of water since for a Week and a half we were confined to the short allowance of one pint a day to each common man, amongst whom we Pilgrims had the honour to be reckoned. In short brethren we reached Mecca, the place I had so long aimed at. As soon as I arrived I washed my head, hands and face, buried my Wig in the Ground and made the best of my way to the Mosque where the body of the famous Mahomet is deposited and with the most profound respect and adoration, laid my Dictionaries in one of the most sacred closets belonging to the place. The caravan stayed here Twelve days, which it seems is their Limited Time; every morning of these days I paid my Vows at the Mosque begging the prophet to give me an easy and prosperous Voyage home, but on the Eleventh day of our Stay at this place as I was returning with a brother pilgrim from the Temple, I met a Gentleman who hearing me say something in the English Tongue, catched me earnestly by the hand and asked me if I had come thither from England, I answered in the affirmative, but that I was an American born. Bless me, said he, did I ever expect to see a person here from such a distant country! he then insisted upon my staying with him as long as I am

22 The word “and” is deleted before “an.” See note 5 above.
pleased, but upon my informing him that I was obliged to set out with the Caravan on the next\textsuperscript{23} morning or be left behind, he seemed very importunate that I should remain with him till it should return. But when he could not prevail upon me, he insisted that I should dine with him that day. This I agreed to do and no sooner had we reached his house which was exceeding Grand & noble in appearance but he presented me with a complete suit of cloaths besides Boots, Shoes, Stockings, Hats, overcoats and so on which I should have need of in my Voyage. I remained with him that whole day giving him a Thousand Thanks for his kindness and then departed for the Caravan, which left the city by Sun rise\textsuperscript{24} But what joy did I feel when I found myself returning to my native country provided with cloaths and other necessaries which made me look more like a human creature than I had done before. We met with nothing very remarkable in our Journey except that we were attacked once or Twice by a company of Banditti whom we easily repulsed. At last we arrived at the city of Alexandria where I found a Ship sailing for Cadiz. I instantly got myself on board, being enabled by the bounty of the Gentleman at Mecca to pay my passage there and travel like a Gentleman; after a prosperous Voyage we anchored at the Isle of Cadiz where I left the Alexandrian Vessel and travelled on horseback to the city of Lisbon in Portugal. Here I found a Ship laden with Wine ready to sail, being bound as the Captain told me for the city of Philadelphia in N. America: I waited Seven Days however for her departure at the End of which Time we embarqued, but in our way touched at the Island of Madeira, where I was invited on Shore by several European and American Merchants who used me with the greatest humanity and kindness and when our Ship sailed dismissed me with several valuable presents and kind Embraces. We now weighed anchor and left this delightful Island which is incommoded by nothing but the Terrors of that Diabolical and pernicious court of the Inquisition which reigns here with all imaginable fury. On the fourth day from our leaving the Island, we were attacked by a prodigious Storm which continued to rage several days with the greatest Violence and drove us a long way out of our intended course but at last the Storm abating a favourable Gale sprang up which

\textsuperscript{23} The word [?] “manen” is deleted before “morning.” See note 5 above.
\textsuperscript{24} The words “in the” are deleted after “Sun rise.”
in three Weeks drove us within sight of the well known capes of Delaware. The next day we entered the River of that name and in about Eight and forty hours we anchored before the famous and flourishing city of Philadelphia where I went on Shore and was politely entertained several days by Gentlemen who had formerly been of my acquaintance. I now began to think of returning to the Castle where I had formerly spent the most agreeable part of my Life and accordingly by means of a Stage Waggon I arrived in the Evening at a place I had been absent from so long a Time and in which had experienced such a variety of adventures, the one half of which I have not ventured to relate for fear of tiring your patience, be it sufficient to say that we have happily got together again where for my part I hope to enjoy the peace and Tranquility of old age without any further disturbance: Experience has taught me to be wise and to leave the paths of Folly for those of Virtue and Wisdom; I have passed this high and low Life: in me you have seen the Sage, the Beggar, the Droll, the Gentleman and what not? I now conclude the history of my Life, even to this moment, and once more inform you all that I desire to spend the remainder of my Life in peace and Ease, pursuing the most sublime and noble Studies, that I may hereafter inform and instruct the World as well by precept as Example—

P: F

The End of the Sage Bombo’s Relation

_The Conclusion of Mr. Bombo’s Life._

Ah could thou break thro’ fates Severe decree
Another Bombo should arise in thee.

Virg.

It has been remarked by the Sages of old as by continual Experience that all earthly things are in a perpetual movement, Gliding in a circle to the place they first sprang from and at length lost in that mighty Ocean of things from whence they at first arose, for Ex-

25 The words “in which had” are inserted above the line after “and.”
26 The word “to” is inserted above the line after “and.”
27 The word “Life” is deleted after “high.”
28 The word “lead” is deleted before “spend.”
amples of this we see the loftiest Cities rise, flourish a few Years, and in time faintly tell us by their splendid Ruins that they once had Existence: again we see the largest Rivers, whose fountains are supplied by means of the clouds from the Sea, winding in a tedious maze and at last are mixed with, and lost in the immense Waters of the Ocean: Thus it is with the Life of Man which is hurried down the Stream of Time by the impetuous Torrent of Fate and is never at rest till it shall arrive into the boundless Waves and Oceans of Eternity; But it is not my intention to go on moralizing in this manner, since the last days of the Sage Hero of this History require our more immediate attention. According to his pious Resolution of retiring from the noise and hurry of the World he betook himself to his Chamber and spent the chief part of his Time in perusing various Authors of the philosophic and moral kind, whose Sentiments joined with his own experience conspired to make him one of the most perfect Scholars of his age; at length growing weary of the noise and perpetual hurry of the Castle, he retired to a pleasant country Seat, situated on the banks of Stony Brook, whose gentle current, to speak in a poetical manner, winds in perpetual mazes through the Green and Romantic Woods or Meadows: in this place our Hero passed away his Time till he arrived to an extreme old Age, which sensibly diminished his Stature and turned his Locks Grey, and indeed I verily believe the Good old man would have wasted away to a fly or Grasshopper like the fabled Tithonus of old, had not Death, which should never come unexpectedly to great and Good men, put a speedy End to all his Travels, cares, Retirements, Studies and other human affairs which exercise the Abilities of Mortals and pass away the tedious & lagging hours of Life. This last Scene of his Days was very melancholy and affecting, but I shall forbear to transmit

29 The word "lost" is deleted before "mixed."
30 The word "with" is inserted above the line after "mixed."
31 The word "Life" is deleted before "Time."
32 The words "and untry'd" are deleted before "Waves."
33 The word "of" is inserted above the deleted word "with."
34 The word "perpetual" is inserted above the deleted word "eternal." Stony Brook runs through the countryside near Princeton. Freneau writes of it again more than fifty years later; see Rudolph Kirk, "Freneau's 'View' of Princeton," The Journal of the Rutgers University Library, III (1939), 24.
35 The word "minds" is deleted before "Abilities."
36 The word "Days" is inserted above the deleted word "Life."
it to Posterity, as the same Tragedy must be acted over again, as long as the World stands, and consequently no one can be ignorant of it. He left all his Estate, consisting of Books, papers, manuscripts &c to his friends and Executors M* Joshua [Hartt?] and M* John Smith of the Castle who it is expected will one day present the World with a compleat Edition of his Lucubrations both in prose and Verse founded upon various moral, divine, Philosophical and comical Subjects— Thus far as to the Affairs of his Life— He ordered in his last Will that he should be buried in a pleasant Wood under a tall Beech by the side of a delightful and Gentle Stream about half a mile from the castle; this injunction I am informed his Executors complied with and over his Tomb placed a large flat stone bearing the following words engraved on it at length—

HIC JACET Corpus Viri Venerandi
Reynardini Bombo:
Qui, multis itineribus, laboribusq: peractis,
Vitâ decessit ad Villam amabilem
Ripis fluvii lapidori, sitam;
Statis anno XCVIII.
Ab omnibus [bonis?]
in Vita dilectus
Et in Morte deploratus:
Hic! Viator, Hic! Lachrymas Effunde
Virg . . . . . . . Hic fungere inani munere
Et[37] Iugeto Virum fortem, Genuorum, doctumque.

This inscription was composed by his learned and ingenious friend and countryman M* Nathan Perkins, who since that time has followed his friend. But tho' it is actually affirmed by some that this Epitaph was engraved in large capital Letters on the Stone, yet the writer of this Chapter thinks fit to declare that although he has searched every spot and every Hillock in this Wood he was never yet able to find our Reverend Pilgrims Tomb, Tombstone or inscription so that perhaps it is not in this place or if it is probably the Autumnal Leaves falling from the Trees has obscured it from sight and rendered it impervious to the curious Eye of the Romantic Traveller. But

[37] The word "Et" replaces the deleted word "Atque."
should any person ever be so happy as to discover it I would take it exceeding kind would he get the following Lines engraved under the Latin Epitaph—

Renowned Shade! whose happy doom
Consigns thee to a Rural Tomb
Here slumb’ring, let thy Golden dreams
Pervade the Woods and Gliding Streams
While in the darkest midnight Shade
Round thee weeps each sylvan maid
The morning comes, the vocal Throng
For thee begin their woful Song

Imitation:
The Muses round thy silent Herse
Forever chaunt the noble Verse
Whose tragic strains at nightly Noon

Virg—
From heav’n can draw the lab’ring Moon
Make loftiest Forests lend an Ear

Pope—And Angels lean from Heav’n to hear.

But what does it signify to crowd his Tomb with Epitaphs, his travels and remarkably eventful Life have raised\(^{38}\) him a monument more noble than any\(^{39}\) material one whatever, which would be continually subject to the injuries of Time and Misfortunes. We therefore now conclude our History hoping that no other person or persons hereafter will attempt or even presume to say, That he or they\(^{40}\) intends to raise up the bones of the honest Father Bombo and carry him in Romance to distant countries; and also let no person be so bold as to write any Second or third parts to this History as we now declare it is compleated as much as it ever will be. Our Sage Hero has undergone toils sufficient to kill any common man and we now leave him whether he is to fly on the Wings of Fame or sink in eternal obscurity— Finis

Nassau Hall Octob. 22\(^{d}\) : 1770. P. F.

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\(^{38}\) The words “have raised” are inserted above the deleted words “has Raised.”

\(^{39}\) The word “other” is deleted after “any.”

\(^{40}\) The words “or they” are inserted above the line after “he.”