RELIABLE ANSWER to some Submitted Questions CONCERNING THE LAND CAROLINA in which Answer, However, Regard is also paid at the Same Time to the Condition of the Colony of Georgia (excerpts)

by Rev. Johann Martin Bolzius, 1750

In 1750 Rev. Johann Martin Bolzius, a leader of the Ebenezer settlement of German Lutherans in Georgia, published a pamphlet to inform other Germans of the promise and realities of emigrating to Georgia or Carolina, heralding the "opportunity to enjoy with us the good of this land and the complete freedom of the English." Presented in a Q&A format (not uncommon in promotional literature of the time), Bolzius answers sixty-seven questions from "Herr von N. N.," probably Christian Von Munch of Augsburg (in present-day Germany), who had helped finance the Ebenezer settlement. In an appendix, Bolzius poses and answers twenty-two additional questions, mostly about slavery. What hopes and concerns are paramount to the potential emigrant? What does he need to know?

1st Question. Whether there is in Carolina much poisonous vermin, as, e.g., snakes, scorpions, Scolopendra [centipedes], tarantulas, and more of a similar kind, and whether their bite is deadly, etc.

Answer. In Carolina and Georgia there is poisonous vermin, such as snakes, a kind of large lizard, various kinds of poisonous spiders and crawling insects, also a furry worm, as long and wide as a finger, which hangs at times from the chestnut bushes; it may be a Scolopendra. But of scorpions and tarantulas nothing is known. Among the snakes the rattlesnakes, which have a rattle of thin horn at the tail and move very slowly, are the most poisonous; their bite causes death in a few minutes unless aid is given immediately. The bites of the other snakes are not deadly. One rarely hears that someone is bitten, and only one instance is known to me of a man who died of a rattlesnake’s bite. The more the land is settled and cleared of trees and bushes, the more such vermin decrease. . . . In the summer people near the sea and near rivers where rushes grow in abundance are much bothered by large humming insects, here called mosquitoes, also by very small flies . . . .
2nd Question. Whether there are there many poisonous trees, fruit, herbs, and plants, etc.

Answer. It may be that there are poisonous trees, fruit, herbs, and plants in Carolina and Georgia, but to me none are known except the nightshade, also known in Germany, which bears small black berries, which may however not be so poisonous as in Europe.

3rd Question. Whether there are many wild carnivorous animals such as lions, panthers, tigers, bears, wolves, crocodiles, and similar ones, and whether they do much damage.

Answer. Neither in Carolina nor in Georgia are there lions, panthers, and tigers. What are called tigers are only lynxes, which do harm to the cattle, pigs, and fowl. There are plenty of bears and wolves. But they are very timid, and flee when they see a man. Crocodiles or, as they are called here, alligators, live in standing water and lakes, apart from the main rivers, where there are many trees, bushes, and rushes in a very large number, but they cannot be compared with the Egyptian crocodiles. People who like to bathe are said to have been pulled under water by the large crocodiles. They do harm to pigs, geese, ducks, and dogs that get too close to them. There is, by the way, no reason to be afraid of them.

4th Question. Whether the natives of the land are very numerous, and whether very barbaric, and whether trouble is to be feared from them.

Answer. It has been noticed that the natives of the land (called Indians) have since the arrival of the Europeans not only retired farther into the mountains towards the northwest, but also by an unknown law of God continuously decreased in number. Among themselves they are almost always engaged in war, and kill one another. Several tribes are still said to be rather numerous; these are allied with the English, and as allies receive as presents from Carolina and Georgia every year three thousand pounds worth of all kinds of goods used among them. They are very barbarous toward one another and toward Europeans in times of war. They torture prisoners to death slowly in an unspeakable way. As long as there is peace among England, Spain, and France, little is to be feared from them, but in times of war they are provoked by French and Spanish emissaries to break with the English, which God however has prevented until now. They do not fight in the open, but concealed and from behind bushes, and therefore when at war with the English as very dangerous to travelers and plantations isolated in the woods. For they all act like highway robbers. In Carolina and Georgia soldiers stationed along the borders in war and peacetime keep their eyes on these savages. The more Europeans come into the land, the less one is afraid of them.

5th Question. Whether it is true that they eat people.

Answer. In Florida there are some Spanish Indians of whom it is said that they eat people. At least they are very barbaric. But there are very few of them, and they are hunted for their lives by the other Indians.
6th Question. Whether they have their own kings, or whether they are subjects of the English.

Answer. It may be said and written that they have kings, but they are nothing except chiefs in war, namely the most courageous and daring, also possibly the most reasonable. Otherwise they cannot order the other Indians around. He who has the most followers achieves most among the Indians and has something like an honorary title. They are not subjects of the English, but consider themselves noblemen and allies of the English.

7th Question. Whether in the former case some of these kings are so powerful that their power has to be considered.

Answer. The power of the so-called kings means nothing except that by their words and arguments they can cause much benefit or damage among their followers, whether they are friends or enemies of the English . . .

8th Question. Whether ways and paths are built up and laid out in Carolina, and whether one can travel safely without danger from the savages and robbers.

Answer. In Carolina, with the help of the Negroes, many ways have already been made level, dry, and comfortable for driving, riding, and walking, and in this respect things are getting better every year because of the industry of the Negroes and the whites. In Georgia we do not have this kind of roads laid out yet, but since most inhabitants live near rivers, the rivers are their roads, on which they travel very comfortably and cheaply in boats, and on which one or two people can transport several hundredweight at a time. In Carolina and Georgia few people walk; one rides because common horses are cheap . . . It is a special example of divine providence that one rarely hears anything at all of robbers here. One travels and is safe from them day and night.

9th Question. About how costly is a Negro man, and a Negro woman?

Answer. There is a large difference between those Negroes who are born in Carolina or have at least lived there several years and those who have just been brought over from Africa. Today a good Negro man costs between £30 [English pounds sterling] and £40, a price for which newly arrived Negroes also have been sold. A good Negro woman is not bought under £30 . . . See Appendix.

10th Question. Whether these people are as false, malicious, and terrible as they are described.

Answer. A faithful and sincere Negro is a very rare thing, but they do exist, particularly with masters who know how to treat them reasonably and in a Christian way. Foolish masters sometimes make disloyal and malicious Negroes. Nearly all like to lie and steal, and if they gain the upper hand in a rebellion they give no mercy, but treat the whites very cruelly. Eternal slavery to them as to all people is an unbearable yoke, and very hard treatment as regards food and work exasperates them greatly. New Negroes therefore must be treated very carefully, for they frequently take their own
lives out of desperation, with the hope of resurrection in their homeland, and of rejoining their people.

11th Question. How many Negroes are necessary for the cultivation of a well-appointed plantation of about 1,000 acres?

Answer. . . . On new land a Negro can work 6 to 10 acres, and plant Indian corn, beans, pumpkins, rice, and potatoes on it. On old land, however, he has his hands full with 6 acres. From this, one can easily compute how many Negroes are required for 1,000 acres. But it is not advisable to start with many at a time. Those who tried to take, as it were, overly big steps in Carolina have fallen and have ruined themselves and others. The fewer Negroes at the start, the better.

12th Question. How many white servants or people are necessary to keep the blacks in order, or, more exactly, what is the ratio of whites to the black servants in a household?

Answer. In Carolina a law was made that every planter shall keep a white man as an overseer for 10 Negroes, but this law, like many others, is quasi Campana sine Pistillo [like a bell without a clapper] for quite a few have perhaps 100 and more Negroes and no white person except their own family, but install the most loyal Negroes as Negro drivers and beaters. That is how it comes about that in Carolina the Negroes outnumber the white inhabitants possibly 30 times. This dangerous disorder has been prevented in our colony [Georgia] by a beneficent law requiring at all times one white man or servant for 4 Negroes on every plantation, which is all the more necessary because we are situated so close to the Spaniards.

13th Question. Whether there are many instances of Negroes murdering their masters, and whether in this case they have the opportunity to flee inland and to escape punishment with the help of the Indians, and whether for such cases the government has established good regulations.

Answer. To answer this question piecemeal: 1.) In Carolina the instances of Negroes murdering, scorching, and burning their own masters or overseers are not rare; 2.) As long as our colony is not filled with Negroes, the deserters in Carolina, if they want to cross Georgia towards Augustine [in Spanish Florida], cannot easily remain hidden. Generally, however, they escape by water, past Frederica to St. Augustine, where they receive their freedom, be it war or peace. Many just run into the woods, get along miserably, are secretly looked after by the other Negroes and occupy themselves with theft; 3.) The Indians have a natural antipathy towards the Negroes, therefore do not help them, and are likely to report them when meeting them in the woods; 4.) in this regard there are good precautions in Carolina against running away and rebellion. For instance, no Negro may go from one plantation to another unless he has written permission from his master. The land is constantly patrolled, and also on Sundays one goes to church with swords, guns, and pistols, etc. The agitators of rebellion are punished in a very harsh and nearly inhuman way (which is generally not the way of the English), for example, slowly roasted at the fire.

14th Question. Whether one is allowed to give them their liberty because of good behavior, and whether they then enjoy the rights of the whites.

Answer. Those Negroes who have served the country well are bought and freed by the government, receive their own land, and enjoy the English rights. If a private party wants to release a Negro he must have the consent of the governor or get him out of the colony. For the free Negroes abuse their freedom, and it is feared they seduce [influence] others.

15th Question. Whether white servants may marry Negresses, & vice versa, white servant girls may marry Negroes, and how the freedom of the children of such a marriage is determined.

Answer. Such mixings or marriages are not allowed by the laws; but just as all manner of terrible abominations are rampant in Carolina, I have learned of 2 white women, one French and one German, who have secretly disgraced themselves with Negroes and have borne black children.
However, an abomination more common and all too common in Carolina is that white men live in sin with Negresses and father half-black children who walk around in large numbers to the shame of the Christian name. They are perpetual slaves just like their mothers. . . .

16th Question. Whether everybody may keep as many Negroes as he pleases, or whether the number is limited according to the possession of land.

Answer. In Carolina as well as Georgia everyone may keep as many Negroes as he can, and their number is not limited according to the possession of land.

17th Question. Whether the upkeep of the Negroes is costly, with a request for an estimate of how much it amounts to, adding a little report about their clothing and native way of life, as well as about their marriages among themselves, and yet other things concerning these people.

Answer. The upkeep of the Negroes is cut very sparse. Year in and year out they receive nothing but Indian or Welsh or Turkish corn, which however is much better than in Europe, healthier and tastier. This corn they must crack themselves in iron mills. Very few receive salt for it, so they cook it in water without salt and lard. . . If they have benevolent masters, or prove themselves loyal, they may receive a little meat a few times a year. They love to eat meat, and sometimes roast mice or steal meat. Some have permission to catch fish on Sundays. But in Carolina many have to plant their own food and also have to earn their few clothes by Sunday work. They plant their tobacco on Sundays, and thus buy something for themselves, their wives, and children. They love their families dearly and none runs away from the other. The separation of families is forbidden in our colony as something unnatural and barbaric; also Sunday work. . . .

18th Question. Whether the natives of the land also enter service for wages with the Europeans, whether they are useful also for day-by-day work in the fields, and whether in this case they can be trusted.

Answer. . . . [Indians] do not enter service for any European, consider themselves to be

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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noblemen, and work, slavery. They only go hunting, bring meat and hides to their wives, the former for cooking, and the hides to be prepared for sale. The women also have to plant Indian corn, beans, pumpkins, and potatoes or sweet roots similar to potatoes, and are kept by the men like slaves. . .

19th Question. How is the situation regarding the white servants?

Answer. Poor people from Europe who cannot pay their passage to the ships’ captains are sold for 3 or 4 years, and must serve. In Carolina some are treated hardly better than Negroes. In our colony [Georgia] they are treated better. However, they rarely do well, but become lazy and run away if they can. They consider it unjust to serve [even] so few years for their passage money. Boys under 14 years must serve up to the 21st year of their age, and girls up to the 18th year. After that the boys receive 50 acres free.

20th Question. Whether their upkeep in food, wages, and clothing is more costly than in Europe. N.B. [Nota bene: Note well] At this point an estimate is requested, how much a male white servant and white servant girl cost roughly per year.

Answer. If one wants to keep the white servants in a Christian way and not like Negroes, they will need at least £8 per year for food and clothing, which they do not earn by mere field work; they also fall sick easily through work in summer. Whoever buys them pays the captain £5 or £6 or 45 to 54 fl. Sensible housefathers employ their servants in lumbering and silk manufacturing because they can stand it better [than field work] and earn more. . .

21st Question. Whether the preparation and cultivation of the earth is very hard and therefore costly, and whether the large burning mirror is known there for the removal of large tree roots.

Answer. The earth in Carolina and Georgia is without stones, therefore quite loose and easily prepared and cultivated with the plot and the hoe. . . He who wants to use the plow must saw up the trees, stack them, and burn them with the branches. After that one guides the plow around the stumps or trunks. On newly laid-out plantations one cannot use the plow until about the 3rd or 4th year because of the many roots.

22nd Question. Whether the earth is fertile and very productive; furthermore, how much harvest one figures per seed, that is, how many bushels does 1 bushel of seeds commonly return?

Answer. The earth is fertile but not so productive as in several places in Europe. The native crops such as Indian corn, beans, rice, and potatoes grow best and most plentifully. Four acres of land require one bushel of Indian corn and barely ½ bushel of Indian beans. They yield 100 bushels of corn, 4 bushels of beans, and a large number of pumpkins, melons, and cucumbers . . . But farther up
towards Augusta [Georgia], about 200 English miles above Ebenezer, the wheat is said to turn out nearly as good as in Europe. That goes for Carolina, too. The wheat often suffers greatly from mold and rust. I am afraid that the correct time and method of planting has not yet been properly understood. . . .

23rd Question. Whether the threshing machine is known there, with the help of which a fellow can with little trouble thresh more than 3 others in one day.

Answer. Threshing of wheat and rye is a very troublesome affair, for it has to be threshed and ground in summer. Otherwise worms and little flies get in and riddle it with holes. We know nothing about the threshing machine beyond that which Councilor Walbaum from Wernigerode once told us about it and what I read about such an invention of the late M. Semler in Halle.

24th Question. Whether European grain as well as vegetable and fruit trees and other produce known to us, and altogether all kinds of European crops and vegetable, can be cultivated there, and whether they actually are.

Answer. The European grain, such as wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas, is cultivated in Carolina and Georgia and grows, as I have said, rather well, and I have observed also that one can grow almost all European field and garden crops here if one takes care to do so at the right time, and if the rains do not stay away too long. . . . [Bolzius continues with a discussion of herbs, vegetables, and fruits.]

25th Question. Of what do the local produce and fruit consist?

Answer. I have mentioned most of the produce already. It is too cold here for orange trees. [Bolzius continues with a discussion of berries, nuts, and trees.]

26th Question. Whether their consumption [i.e., eating of local produce and fruit] is good for Europeans or whether they expose them to illnesses common in these areas.

Answer. Neither from experience nor through hearsay do I know that the consumption of the local Indian and European field, garden, and tree crops is in the least detrimental to health, if properly ripe or well prepared. . . . The common local illnesses are febres intermittentes [intermittent fevers], particularly daily and three-day ones, also diarrheas and dysenteries which do not result from eating fruit but because of the local very unsettled weather, because of overheating and fast cooling off by drinking fresh water, bathing, undressing during the day and night, also from merely drinking water during work and when in sweat. . . .

27th Question. Whether the earth there is cultivated with the plow as done here, and whether the inhabitants, as here, use oxen, horses, and mules for it.

Answer. The earth is cultivated with the plow in Ebenezer and at some places in Carolina and Georgia. Our inhabitants use horses and mares. Near Savannah and in several places in Carolina one also uses oxen, which however cannot stand as much as the horses in the hot summer. . . .

28th Question. Whether that kind of animals can be had there, or whether they are very expensive and whether it might therefore be better to transport that kind of creature.

Answer. Even in our district there are plenty of horses and mares grazing wild, which increase every year; they are therefore cheap and easily tamed. Therefore [it] would be unnecessary and much too costly to transport such creatures across the sea. Practically no Indian, his wife, and children walk on foot any longer. That is how plentiful horses are in Carolina and Georgia. The most annoying thing is, that at times the Indians steal several tame horses from the pasture in the open woods, and then they have to be searched for again with much effort and cost. They may even shoot a horse or cow for the bell around its neck, if the creature will not let itself be caught.

29th Question. Whether the well-known American buffalo or buffalo ox is tamed and can be used like our oxen, whose meat when it has been cut up resembles our beef, whose cow gives milk.
like our cows and whose milk is used for the same purpose, and the meat of whose calf is the same as our veal, and equally whether it is true that these animals are covered with a fine and valuable wool instead of with hair.

*Answer.* In our region there are no buffalo oxen and cows, but farther up, towards the southwest, they are frequent. Their hair (as I have seen from the hides) is not much better than that of bears or rough sheep wool, and I have never heard that one catches them alive, cuts them up, takes the milk from the cows, kill the calves. The meat is said to taste similar to other beef and to be very tough if from old oxen or cows.

**30th Question.** Whether one has sheep there, and whether in case none are to be had, it is believed that if one transported some they could be raised there and would develop well.

*Answer.* There are enough sheep in Carolina, and a good number already in Georgia and Ebenezer, and develop very well. Meat and wool are very good. . . One kills few of them, but keeps them for breeding. But in Charlestown mutton is not rare.

**31st Question.** Whether all species of our European fowl thrive there.

*Answer.* I know of no species of European fowl which does not thrive in Carolina and Georgia; they increase much. Chickens, ducks, geese, etc., can be had for little money.

**32nd Question.** A list of those animals, birds, and fishes as are found there is respectfully requested, and not only of those that serve for food and use, but also of the harmful ones.

*Answer.* My time has not allowed me to occupy myself much with ornithology and ichthyology in this country; my answer to this question will therefore turn out rather incomplete. [Bolzius continues with a lengthy list of domestic and wild animals.]

**33rd Question.** Whether the most necessary craftsmen are to be found there, and of which there is the greatest shortage.

*Answer.* There are in Carolina all kinds of craftsmen necessary for the country, such as carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, locksmiths, shoemakers, tailors, saddle makers, cooper builders of wooden barrels], carriage builders, tanners, gunsmiths, turners, weavers. But since the Negroes learn all kinds of common and useful crafts, the poor [white] craftsmen cannot succeed. In Georgia, Negroes are not allowed to learn a craft except the cooper craft. There is still a shortage of carpenters, turners, brickmakers, carriage builders, and potters in Georgia. Weavers, hosiers, knitters, needle makers, bakers, millers and so on are not necessary here. Most craftsmen go in for agriculture and husbandry.

**34th Question.** Whether hemp and flax grow there, and whether there is an opportunity to spin and to make linen.

*Answer.* Flax grows very well and soft. Our inhabitants do not quite know how to care for hemp. I understand that flax is grown in Carolina too, but more cotton than flax. The wage, and the spinning therefore, is very expensive because of so few people. Consequently one almost prefers to buy linen, socks, etc., to having them made or knit. But there is much spinning, weaving, and knitting in Carolina and Georgia.
35th Question. Whether the water is good and wholesome.
Answer. Near the sea really good water is not found, but a little farther inland the river and spring water is good and wholesome, as in Savannah and Ebenezer. The land is very rich in water, and there are many springs. Wells can be had very easily, but cellars with difficulty. Because one perspires much here in summer, also in spring and fall because of hard work, the drinking of much water, without beer, brandy, or wine is not good for hard workers. A wholesome and very cheap beer is brewed here, from Indian corn, sugar, syrup, and hops.

36th Question. Whether there are vineyards, or if there are none, whether it is considered possible to start any there.
Answer. As far as they are now inhabited, Carolina and Georgia have hills but not mountains, and therefore no vineyards. Yet it must be a good wine country, for the vines in the woods are as thick as arms and run up the highest trees.

37th Question. How much will a genteel family need per year for its upkeep in Charlestown, if it consists of 9 persons including servant girls and one butler, and which is more than well supplied with linen and all necessary housewares, and whether it is possibly believed that 5 to 600 Rthlr. of German money could provide this support is an agreeable way. It does not require carriage and horses, if only it can otherwise live quietly and agreeably.
Answer. It is expensive and costly to live in Charlestown and much more than 600 Rthlr. or £100 would be required yearly for the upkeep of such a family according to its position even without carriage and horses. The splendor, lust, and opulence there has grown almost to the limit. If the family did not go along with it, it would be despised. Young people there are in great danger. I am sorry that I have to write this. In Ebenezer it is comparatively cheap to live, and I could not manage my sparsely appointed household with £50 if I did not at times receive some help from European benefactors and if my wife did not keep several cattle. How much less can such a family manage? Its European clothes it would have to change according to the often changing Charlestown fashion. Otherwise there would be much humiliation and mockery. House rent is excessively dear [costly] in Charlestown.

38th Question. How far are Savannah, Purrysburg, and Ebenezer from Charlestown?
Answer. Charlestown is 150 miles by water from Savannah, 168 miles from Purrysburg, and 180 miles from Ebenezer. One can get there from Savannah with a good boat which is rowed by 3 men in 5 or 6 days. On land one travels on horse from Purrysburg to Charlestown in 3 days. Whoever wants to go there from Savannah or Ebenezer must travel through Purrysburg.

39th Question. Whether the Swiss in Purrysburg are German or French.
Answer. The Swiss in Purrysburg are partly German, partly French; most of the latter speak Swiss German.

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1 Rheinthalers. [Loewald, Starika & Taylor, eds., Reliable Answer, p. 243]
40th Question. Whether one lives in great danger in times of war from Spaniards and Frenchmen, and also from their Indian subjects.

Answer. If one could rely on the loyalty of our Indians, one would have little to worry about from the Spaniards and Frenchmen; for the Frenchmen are too far away and the Spaniards are too weak to be harmful to us. During the recent long war we had no danger and difficulty. This border colony contained a regiment of soldiers on foot and a few small corps of soldiers on horse. But God was our protection. There is a fortress occupied by soldiers, to keep the Indians in check, in Carolina called Savannah-town, and one in Georgia called Augusta.

41st Question. If one brings capital [money to invest for profit] along, whether one can invest it safely and with what percentage of return.

Answer. In this country we have to remember the German saying: watch out whom you trust, carefully, particularly in money matters and affairs of trade. Bankruptcy is a rather common thing in Charlestown, wherefore one reads so much in their papers about large auctions. After the death of great gentlemen particularly, one hears that with all their pomp they had been deep in debt. Interest is now 8 per cent. It is better and safer to bank one’s money in England.

42nd Question. Whether people who take along 4 or 5000 Rthlr. can achieve a quiet way of life without going into trade, just by cultivating the soil, and about how much time they need for it.

Answer. A sensible and economically experienced man can with God’s blessing do quite a bit with 4 or 5000 Rthlr. On a plantation, so that in two or 3 years he can live comfortably. . . . The best plantations are those which have good soil, especially much rice land, good lumber, tall white oaks and cypress, and are situated close to the river and not far from the capital. If on such land as just described a newly arrived gentleman, e.g., built a little house and kitchen for himself and his family for about 300 fl. or some £30 right at the beginning, buys 2 Negro men for £70 or for 630 fl., one horse for riding for £5 or 45 guilders, 6 cows and calves for £12 or 108 fl., and 10 chickens and 2 cockerels for 7s. [or] 3 fl. (one can do nothing with pigs until one is well settled and the land produces), the initial expense would total somewhat above or more than 600 Rthlr., he would therefore keep more than 4000 Rthlr. in hand, with which he would have to manage carefully, and he must not get involved in buying Negroes and extensive buildings but must always distinguish between the necessary and the useful, and choose the former. With such an initial modest establishment, such a gentleman would come to learn by his own industry and intercourse with his neighbors how to proceed with good success. Intelligent planters say that an industrious Negro may earn £10, i.e., 90 fl., apart from his food and clothing, in one year, which I believe too, while however marveling that one feeds these poor creatures so miserably and keeps them in eternal slavery.
43rd Question. Whether victuals in the cities are expensive, requesting a small sample of food prices in Savannah, Purrysburg, Ebenezer, and Charlestown.

Answer. [Bolzius provides a detailed accounting of food prices in the towns.]

44th Question. Whether the land is well settled yet, and cleared of superfluous trees and bushes.

Answer. Carolina is rather well settled already, but there are still large forests uncultivated. But in our Georgia everything is still forests, and small plantations have been established only here and there, and therefore it has fine timber in abundance for trade with the West Indies. In my humble judgment industrious inhabitants can receive good land, free, more easily in Georgia than in Carolina, for there the masters already own the best districts.

45th Question. Whether many towns and villages have been founded in Carolina, or whether the people live rather on isolated plantations, like in Virginia and Maryland.

Answer. As far as I know there are no formal towns yet in Carolina except Charlestown and Port Royal, for Purrysburg resembles a long-drawn-out village rather than a town. People live on their plantations, everyone almost in a private forest, as is the case in several colonies. One hundred fifty miles northeast of Charlestown two settlements have been established, Congreese or Saxengotha, and Edisto or Oranienburg, which are populated by Swiss and Germans. But they also live in forests on their plantations, and must transport their things on carriages with great discomfort to Charlestown. As regards religion and the outward appearance of life among them, things look very miserable.

46th Question. Whether a good house, built of bricks, would be very costly to erect. N.B. [Note well.] One begs to request, if possible, a rough yet only quite general estimate, how much a house of 10 to 12 rooms might possibly cost. To go into details would be too elaborate and is impossible, and one would like to have an answer as soon as possible.

Answer. To build is very expensive in Carolina, and a house of bricks or fired stones, if it only had 2 rooms and 2 bedrooms, would cost £2[00] to £300 without the plot (which costs very much in Carolina). In Charlestown one builds, since the big fire, with bricks which are made cheaply by the Negroes, namely 1,000 for 14s. or 6 fl. . . . In Savannah one builds with wood and boards, and panels the rooms on the inside, or what is more common, one finishes them with the above-mentioned quicklime. In this way they are very durable and clean, when painted on the outside with oil paint. A house built in this way, with 4 rooms, would not cost less than £200. . . .

47th Question. Whether beds, tables, mirrors, chairs, and other similarly necessary household goods are to be found there, or whether one had better take such things along on the crossing.

Answer. The fewer such space-requiring and breakable household goods one takes across the sea, the better it is. Everything is to be found here for reasonable money. At the beginning one scrapes along as best one can. In Charlestown these and many other pieces of furniture are often sold at an auction. . . .
48th Question. Whether it is more advantageous to buy an established plantation or to start and cultivate a new one.

Answer. In Carolina plantations are often sold with everything that is on them, which is done partly because of debts, partly because they are old and full of grass and have little good timber left. It is better to put one’s money to better use and to choose new land for a plantation, which at this time can still be had for nothing.

49th Question. One should like to know the approximate value of an already established plantation of 1,000 acres, one of 1,500 acres, one of 2,000 acres, one of 2,500 acres, and one of 3,000 acres, of arable land. If this could be extended up to 4,000 and 5,000 acres it would be even more appreciated.

Answer. I have just heard that a very skillful, industrious, and Christian planter in the region around Port Royal wants to sell his plantation and is asking nearly 10s. for each acre. This seems to be the most common price of land in Carolina. Houses and other goods are estimated separately. The closer a plantation lies to the river and to Charlestown, and has also good soil and fine timber, the more expensive it is. See Appendix.

50th Question. Whether there are any for sale, and in what areas the best ones are situated.

Answer. On nearly every sheet of the Charlestown newspaper I read about large plantations of several 100, even 1,000 acres being offered for sale. The best ones are those (as before said) which are close to the river and not far from Charlestown. When buying them one also looks for good soil for rice and grain, cattle pasture, and timber. Such good plantations are rarely sold, or are costly beyond measure.

51st Question. Whether the roads are constructed so as to enable one to use carriage and horses, and whether, lacking these the plantation would have to lie near a river, so that one could use the water.

Answer. It has already been reported that in Carolina many paths and built-up roads already exist, on which one can use horses and carriages, particularly between those places which have much communication with Charlestown. Notwithstanding the good roads, the best plantations are still situated on rivers, for the best land is there, and one can easily and at little cost take one’s crops to market by boats.

52nd Question. Whether the Carolina border is sufficiently close to the Savannah River so that one can attend the Sunday services in Savannah or Ebenezer.

Answer. Carolina and Georgia are separated by the Savannah River. But the land in Carolina on the banks of the Savannah River (except Purrysburg) is so low that nobody can live there because of inundation, and therefore even the nearest planters have nearly a day’s journey to Savannah and Ebenezer. The planters around Purrysburg can come to us or get to Savannah with boats in half a day. . . .
53rd Question. Whether the silk manufacture is pushed strongly, and whether there are people about who know how to handle it, or whether one would do well to take along people who understand it.

Answer. For several years the silk manufacture in Purrysburg and in Ebenezer has rather gathered momentum, and now there is no lack of people who know well how to handle it. In the last summer Ebenezer sent a heavy chest full of spun silk to London, which brought our community nearly £200.

54th Question. Whether the Virginian so-called silkweed, as well as the cotton tree and bush grow in Carolina.

Answer. Much silkgrass does grow here, but it is only used for ropes, cords, and chairs. I do not know whether it is different from the Virginian. The Spanish one is much better. I have seen a Salzburg woman spin yarn from it. Cotton grows here plentifully on bushes. But the trees freeze in winter and are therefore not planted here.

55th Question. Whether there are water and windmills there to grind the grain, and whether there are good millstones in America, or whether one brings them from Europe.

Answer. There are no windmills in Carolina. In Congress there is said to be a water mill, and one has collapsed in Savannah-town. There is a small grinding mill in Augusta, yet is of little importance. Over 8 or 9 years in our town, God has given us such earthly jewels as 2 grinding mills, one sawmill, rice-peeling mill, and a rice stamper... All we lack are physical resources. Otherwise everything would be improved and enlarged under God’s blessing...

56th Question. What the goods are which are exported from there, and where they are sent to.

Answer. The goods which are shipped from Carolina, i.e., from Charlestown and Port Royal, are rice, Indian corn, beans, beef, and pork, all of which go mainly to the West Indies. Much rice is fetched also by the Northern colonies, as well as sent to Portugal. Most of it goes to England. Also sent to the West Indies, and at times to Bermuda as well, are many staves, cypress shingles, boards, masts, and poles for sails, also rudders. Pitch, tar, deerskins, and beaver pelts as well as indigo go only to England. Some shoe leather is sent to the Northern colonies. Along the ocean and probably in several other regions around the rivers there are cedars and live oaks (a wood nearly as tough as iron), which are also fetched from Carolina and Georgia. The silk is sent to London and is now very welcome and of good value.

57th Question. What the European goods are which are most demanded in Carolina, and one would particularly like to know the price of the raw as well as the manufactured iron, copper, lead, tin, etc. No less does one request a report about linen, how much it is worth there and what kind finds the most acceptance, equally a short report of the locally common woolen and silken things, also what mirrors, glasses, tea and coffee cups of china, and similar things are roughly worth, or if such is not possible, at least a general report whether a large profit is to be made from that kind of goods, as well as short goods such as socks, caps, gloves, and similar wares.

Answer. In Carolina and Georgia one has nearly all things which are necessary for the wants and refreshment of human life, and [these] can hardly be enumerated. There is no shortage of any things pertaining to clothing and the household. The shops in Charlestown particularly are full of all manner of cloths, materials, white, colored, striped linen, coarse as well as fine. What is made by craftsmen and artists and is needed for the household, for agriculture, and for other vital matters is all to be had in abundance, and must not be made in the land because it comes from England in abundance. Nor is there any shortage of English beer, of French and Portuguese wine, nor of gold and silverware, of mirrors and all kinds of ornaments...
58th Question. Whether, at the sale of these wares, one may hope for payment entirely in cash or in goods, or partly in cash and partly in goods.

Answer. Cash is very rare in the land, and it is to be feared that one would not receive money for goods from the merchants in Carolina and Georgia, but would have to take barter goods, as has happened to us a few times already with certain German items. . . The granting of credit or borrowing of goods is a common thing in Carolina and Georgia, and a merchant would be able to sell little if he did not give his goods out on credit for 6 and more months. But this makes some come to much grief.

59th Question. Whether there are many rich noblemen and merchants in Carolina.

Answer. That there might be German noblemen in Carolina and Georgia is not known to me at all. The Englishmen, Frenchmen, and Germans who have some fortune, enjoy esteem or are in office, pass for noblemen, and are called Gentlemen. There are some rich merchants in Carolina, however only few, and there are only two in Georgia, who are my friends. A few years ago they had nothing, and now are blessed people. Many a one is considered rich in Carolina, but when he is dead, his possessions are auctioned off to the highest bidder. I believe they let themselves in too deep for trade, for the keeping of Negroes, and for large households, and keep table and status beyond their means.

60th Question. Whether if a distinguished family in which there are also daughters would settle in Carolina, these would find decent prospects [for husbands], particularly if brought up well and virtuously.

Answer. It might be that well-qualified and distinguished daughters could make good marriages in Carolina, but it would be rather difficult, etc. [Etc. in original, ending the answer.]

61st Question. Whether the inhabitants have the liberty to send their goods in their own ships to any place, wherever they please; or whether they are obliged to ship them to England; further, whether they have the liberty to load in those places where they have taken their goods other goods such as linen, copper, tin, iron, lead, china, glasses, socks, hats, boots, shoes, and altogether all goods which are not contraband there; or whether such have to be manufactured in England. . .

Answer. About this point I have to obtain information in Savannah. This much I know: each and every one in Carolina and Georgia is free to trade what he wishes or is able to. Anyone may acquire boats, open or covered barges, small and large ships, as far as his fortune allows, and may load them with anything he wants, provided he pays his duty in Charlestown. Which goods, and where they are sent to, has already been discussed under question and answer 56. This much I know, too, that Dutch and German iron goods are contraband. Indeed it is not even allowed to send manufactured
iron such as axes from New England into other colonies, and therefore it will be even less allowed from other countries, which are not subject to the crown of England. Many a merchant deals in contraband goods with Spaniards and Frenchmen in the West Indies without bad conscience.

62nd Question. What value English gold and silver coins have; what they are worth per avanco; and, if one takes one’s money along in cash, whether it fetches a better price than in England. Presumably there will be a rate of exchange authorized by the government, which one would like to know; if such is not the case, surely merchants will be found who will provide such a schedule.

Answer. It is severely forbidden by an English law to export English gold and silver coin from old England. What a man carries with him under £5 in gold or silver, as well as copper coin as much as desired, is allowed. . . .

63rd Question. How the government is constituted; whether the king or his government is despotick, or whether their authority is limited by a kind of parliament.

Answer. In all English colonies the English freedom basically founded in Magna Carta (as they call it) applies, and therefore there is here no trace of a despotick government. The governor is as much limited by the laws as the most lowly subject, and may not overstep his authority. There are, it is true, minor laws made in the land, but they must be approved by the King and State Council in London; before that they are not valid. In Charlestown a parliament for the benefit of the whole country is held yearly, in which the governor represents the King, councilors represent the Upper House, and the deputies from all the districts of the land represent the Lower House. . . .

64th Question. Whether in Causis arduis one may appeal to England.

Answer. In Causis arduis (concerning Meum & Tuum)² one may appeal from Carolina and Georgia to England to the highest court (called King’s Bench); but in capital offenses, if a man has been condemned in court by 12 of his peers as a culprit, this cannot be done. . . .

65th Question. Whether a Protestant stranger, from whatever nation he may be, may hold public office in the government, or whether that kind of prerogative is enjoyed preferably by the citizens.

Answer. I have never yet noticed that a discrimination was made against nationals who had sworn allegiance to the King of England; indeed I know that there is in the secret council at Charlestown a Frenchman and a Dutchman. And our surgeon, Mr. Mayer, is a judge in Ebenezer, constituted and sworn by the Trustees, and thus there are several in Carolina from other nations. The deputies to Parliament in Charlestown and in Georgia are not only Englishmen, but also Frenchmen and Germans, provided they know the English language. The English minister in Savannah is a native Swiss. . . .

66th Question. Whether if one has lived for a certain time in America, owns property there, and afterwards returned to England and settled there, one would be able to enjoy all the privileges of a native Englishman in that kingdom.

Answer. He who wants to move away from the land may sell and take along anything he wishes of his property, land, household goods, and everything, and need not pay an emigration tax. He also is, in America and England, an English subject at all times, and enjoys all the privileges of the kingdom like the native Englishmen.

67th Question. And finally, who the best and most reliable authors are who have written about America.

Answer. I know of no authors who have written about America. Several Fathers [Catholic priests] have published a number of works from South America which however I have not seen.

² Causis arduis: . Meum & Tuum: “mine and yours” (Latin), i.e., referring to legal cases over private property.
APPENDIX

Questions and Answers Concerning the Plantation Business in Carolina

1st Question. What is the price of new Negroes who have been brought over from Africa and are sold in Carolina?

Answer. A good new Negro man costs £28 to £32. A Negro woman is about £3 cheaper.

2nd Question. What is the price of such Negroes as are already used to the country or were born therein?

Answer. One who can do nothing but work on a plantation costs £28 to £36. If the Negroes know a craft, they are worth more by as much as their craft earns, e.g., a couple of sawyers are worth £4 to £6 more than a mere field Negro; a cooper costs £50 to £70. A carpenter £70 to £107. A Negro woman who is useful in the house costs £35 to £57. A Negro woman for field work £26 to £33. N.B. [Note well.] These are the prices for native or acclimatized Negroes at public auctions. If one wants to buy them from anyone who does not have to sell them because of need, they cost a little more. For cash one buys more cheaply. Otherwise one has to give 8 per cent interest.

3rd Question. What is the difference in price for the children who are born in Carolina and those who are brought into the land from Africa?

Answer. A native boy of 8 to 15 years costs from £14 to £35 according to whether he looks well and has good expectations. A Negro girl of 8 to 15 years, £10 to £21. A newly imported boy of 8 to 15 years is worth £10 to £25. A Negro girl of 8 to 15 years, £10 to £21. N.B. [Note well.] Boys and girls of 2 to 4 years are worth about up to £7. Boys and girls above 15 years are worth the price of adult Negro men and women. Little children are bought with their mothers. One does not easily buy a child under 8 years by itself.

Bolzius composed an additional twenty-two questions and answers.
4th Question.  What is the best and safest way to buy Negroes?

Answer.  The best way to buy acclimatized Negroes is at public auction, if a planter has to sell his slaves because of debts. If one wants to have new Negroes and a shipload arrives in the port of Charlestown, one agrees on a price with the buyer of the shipload, enters the ship and picks out which and how many one wants to have.

5th Question.  From which Negro country do the best Negroes come?

Answer.  The best Negroes come from the Gold Coast in Africa, namely, Gambia and Angolo [Angola]. The Hipponegroes are the worst nation, stupid and bloodthirsty, and often kill themselves. . . .

6th Question.  How are they clothed in winter and summer?

Answer.  A plantation Negro man receives a bad coat and long pants out of 5 yards of white or blue Negro cloth (that is the coarsest, thick-est cloth), which costs about 7s., and a pair of shoes (cost 2s. 6d.). The women are clothed with the same kind of cloth (their clothing costs about 10s.). [Every] 3 years each person receives a woolen blanket or bed cover (costs 7s.). Some give them nothing in summer, but some give the women a short skirt of coarse linen and the men a pair of pants of coarse linen and a cap or bad hat for the head, and a handker-chief for the women to cover their head. If the Negroes are skillful and industrious, they plant something for themselves after the day’s work and buy trifles with the proceeds.

7th Question.  How does one feed the men, women, and children?

Answer.  From September to March their food is commonly potatoes and small unsalable rice, also at times Indian corn; but in summer corn and beans which grow on the plantation. Men, women, and children have the same food.

8th Question.  How does one house them?

Answer.  They live in huts, each family or 2 persons in one hut. The barn is built about 600 feet away from the house of the master and the huts of the Negroes are arrayed around the barn, at a little distance from one another so that if fire breaks out in one hut the others are more easily saved. The costs of such a Negro hut are very minor. One buys only a few nails for them.

9th Question.  How much does the yearly upkeep of a Negro, be he man or woman, cost altogether?

Answer.  The yearly upkeep per head costs 12s. for clothing, 2s. annual tax, 28s. for food, totals 2 guineas. Each adult slave receives 1½ quarts or 3 pounds of grain, totals 20 bushels a year.
10th Question. How many acres of rice can a Negro man cultivate in one year?

Answer. If it is new land, a Negro man or woman can plant and cultivate 5 acres in one year. But if the field is old and grassy, not more than 3 acres.

11th Question. How much can a Negro cultivate in other crops per year?

Answer. A good slave may plant and cultivate 10 acres of corn and potatoes, if the land is new and good. But if it is old and grassy, not more than 6 acres. N.B. [Note well.] It is customary that each diligent slave must plant and cultivate 3 acres of rice and 4 acres of grain a year, apart from some potatoes, where the land is not too grassy.

12th Question. What is the day’s work of each Negro woman?

Answer. A good Negro woman has the same day’s work as the man in the planting and cultivating of the fields. The men fell the trees, and the women cut the bushes and carry them together, and thus they share their work, and the man doing the hardest and the woman the easiest.

13th Question. What work do the children of male and female sex have?

Answer. The children are used for various small jobs according to their age, such as hoeing the potatoes, feeding the chickens, shooing the birds from the rice and grain.

14th Question. What is the daily work of the Negroes on a plantation throughout the year?

Answer. If one wants to establish a plantation on previously uncultivated land, [1) one orders the Negroes to clear a piece of land of trees and bushes first of all, so as to build the necessary huts on it at once. 2) Until March one has as much land cleared of trees and bushes and prepared for planting as possible. 3) The land which is to be cultivated must be fenced with split poles 12 to 13 feet long and nearly 4 inches thick. Every Negro must split 100 of such poles per day from oaks and firs. Others carry them together, and several make the fence. In this, men and women are kept busy. 4) In the evening all the Negroes must occupy themselves with burning the cut bushes and the branches. N.B. [Note well.] When the land is prepared for planting, the bushes must be cut down first and piled on heaps, and afterwards the trees must be felled. The Negroes must hack the branches off the trees, and also pile them in heaps. Now when one observes that all branches and bushes are quite dry, one puts fire to them and lets them burn up. Since the land is full of dry leaves, the fire spreads far and wide and burns grass and everything it finds. One lets the felled trees lie on the field until they rot, for it would be a loss of time if one wanted to split and burn them. N.B. One looks after the best building timber as well as possible. The white oaks are used for barrel staves, and the young white oaks and nut trees are used for hoops. . . .

15th Question. What is permitted to Negroes after they have done their required day’s work?

Answer. They are given as much land as they can handle. On it they plant for themselves corn, potatoes, tobacco, peanuts, water and sugar melons, pumpkins, bottle pumpkins (sweet ones and stinking ones which are used as milk and drink vessels for other things). They plant for themselves also on Sundays. For if they do not work they make mischief and do damage. (Sed datur tertium, idque maxime necessarium, namely one should instruct them in the Christian religion according to Abraham’s example, Genesis 18:19.) They sell their own crops and buy some necessary things.

16th Question. How much meat, fish, bread, and butter do they receive weekly?

Answer. Their food is nothing but Indian corn, beans, pounded rice, potatoes, pumpkins. If the master wishes, he gives them a little meat when he slaughters. They have nothing but water to drink.

17th Question. How much does an acre of rice yield?

Answer. If the land is not too wet nor too dry, an acre will yield 2, 3, and 4 barrels of rice. In a barrel there are 7 to 8 bushels, and each bushel weighs a little above 60 pounds. That land which is at times inundated by the river and fertilized, yields most.
18th Question. What expenses does one have before one can market the rice?

Answer. One pours it into barrels, and takes it to market in boats. A cooper receives about 20d. to make a barrel, and has to get his own staves and hoops. One rolls the barrels to the river. The pounded rice is not sold. The rice dust is used for horse and pig food.

19th Question. What kind of woodwork is manufactured, and where is it sent?

Answer. The Negroes cut fir trees into ships’ masts, and into building lumber. Boards are sawed out of the fir trees too, and sent to the West Indies to the English, Spaniards, French, and Portuguese. Barrel staves from white oaks go to Madeira, Lisbon, and the West Indies, also roof shingles from cypress trees. All manner of crops such as corn, beans, rice, as well as horses are sent to the West Indies to the English, Spaniards, and French, also to Madeira.

20th Question. What does one get back for it?

Answer. From the West Indies syrup, sugar, and rum, also some fruit such as lemons and Seville oranges come back; from Madeira, wine. It is forbidden to bring it here from the French and the Dutch. From Providence come red boards, large turtles, brazilwood, and some fruit.

21st Question. What capital is required to establish a plantation with 10 Negroes?

Answer. On such a plantation there should be reasonably be 7 men, 3 women, and 1 boy of 10 to 15 years to take care of the cattle and fowl. He who can buy 2 or 3 families need not fear that they will run away. For these Negroes one keeps a manager or overseer. If he has a wife, she receives no pay, but her food, half the fowl, and half of the third of the butter. The overseer receives a monthly salary of 30 to 40s.

An estimate of the costs to establish a plantation with 10 Negroes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The price of 10 new Negroes, i.e., 7 men and 3 women, altogether is</td>
<td>£286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of a boy about 10 to 15 years</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field tools, clothes, food for Negroes</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and food for the manager or overseer</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The costs of cows, pigs, sheep, and all kinds of fowl; as well as</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>various tools in the house, nails, iron strips, the house of the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overseer, a good and spacious barn, machines for peeling and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stamping the rice, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum</td>
<td>£456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That is how much a newly to be established plantation with 10 Negroes and one boy will cost in the first year. The master’s house is not included in these costs. . . .

22nd Question. What other things are manufactured in Carolina?

Answer. 1) Indigo: but as long as the rice fetches such a good price as now, only little is made. It makes a great smell, and attracts much vermin;
2) Potash: so far only a little has been made as a trial;
3) Pitch, tar, and turpentine [naval stores]. On the south side of Charlestown little, but on the north side all the more is made;
4) A little silk has been made in Purrysburg. Vineyards would not prosper because the land is too low;
5) Cotton grows well, but is planted little because its profit is not as large as that of rice and indigo;
6) Deer and some beaver skins are bartered by the Indians for clothing, rum, powder, lead, rifles, ribbons, salt, kettles, and many other things, and sent to England;
7) Tobacco grows well too, and is planted rather much.