Louisa Susannah Wells

Selected text from the journal of Louisa Susannah Wells in which she reveals why she was leaving Charlestown (Charleston), South Carolina. These passages are from the journal’s first entry:

On the 27th of June, my uncle Robert Rowand, his son Charles Elliot, Miss Frances Thorney, my maid Bella, and I, went on board the Ship “Providence” formerly L’Esperance, Richard Stevens, Master, a native of Trierio in New England, bound to Rotterdam. The other Passengers were Mr. Manson, Owner, Mrs. And Miss Manson, and three other children, the youngest not two months old. Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Weir and a Mr. Falconer; master of a Jamaica ship, which had been captured and brought into Charlestown; but from his great age was liberated. We soon dropped down to the Roads, where we lay wind bound for several days.

Every Person on board the “Providence” were banished except Captain Stevens. Never did any of us experience joy, so truly, as when we found ourselves in the wide Ocean, out of the dominion of Congress. You know the many difficulties the poor Tories had to encounter in procuring ships, getting Men &c. The poor Pilot by whose skill we were indebted for safety, seemed to enjoy our happiness, independent of our contribution, above his master’s fee.
The Journal of a Voyage from Charlestown, S.C., to London Undertaken During the American Revolution By a Daughter of an Eminent American Loyalist [Louisa Susannah Wells] in the Year 1778 And Written from Memory only in 1779.