

## THE FOUNDATION OF THE COLONY OF GEORGIA

In *America* there are fertile lands sufficient to subsist<sup>1</sup> all the useless Poor in *England*, and distressed Protestants in Europe; yet Thousands starve for want of mere sustenance. The distance makes it difficult to get thither. The same want<sup>2</sup> that renders men useless here, prevents their paying their passage; and if others pay it for them, they become servants, or rather slaves for years to those who have defrayed the expense. Therefore, money for passage is necessary, but is not the only want<sup>3</sup>; for if people were set down<sup>4</sup> in *America*, and the land before them, they must cut down trees, build houses, fortify towns, dig and sow the land before they can get in a harvest; and till then, they must be provided with food, and kept together, that they may be assistant to each other<sup>5</sup> for their natural support and protection. [...]

His Majesty [has] been graciously pleased to grant a charter for incorporating a number of gentlemen by the name of *The Trustees for establishing the Colony of Georgia in America*. They are empowered to collect benefactions<sup>6</sup>; and lay them out in<sup>7</sup> cloathing, arming, sending over, and supporting colonies of the poor, whether subjects or foreigners, in *Georgia*. And his Majesty farther grants all his lands between *Savannah and Alatamaha*, which he erects into a Province by the name of *GEORGIA*, unto the Trustees, in trust for the poor<sup>8</sup>, and for the better support of the Colony. At the desire of the Gentlemen, there are clauses in the Charter, restraining them and their successors from receiving any salary, fee, perquisite<sup>9</sup>, or profit, whatsoever, by or from this undertaking; and also from receiving any grant of lands within the said district, to themselves, or in trust for them. There are farther clauses granting to the Trustees proper powers for establishing and governing the Colony, and liberty of conscience<sup>10</sup> to all who shall settle there. [...]

Christianity will be extended by the execution of this design; since, the good discipline established by the Society<sup>11</sup>, will reform the manners of those miserable objects, who shall be by them subsisted; and the example of a whole Colony, who shall behave in a just, moral, and religious manner, will contribute greatly towards the conversion of the Indians, and taking off the prejudices received from the profligate<sup>12</sup> lives of such who have scarce anything of Christianity but the name.

The Trustees in their general meetings, will consider of the most prudent methods for effectually establishing a regular Colony; and that it may be done, is demonstrable. Under what difficulties, was *Virginia* planted? -- the coast and climate then unknown; the Indians numerous, and at enmity with the first Planters, who were forced to fetch all provisions from *England*; yet it is grown a mighty Province, and the Revenue receives £100,000 for duties<sup>13</sup> upon the goods that they send yearly home. Within these 50 years, *Pennsylvania* was as much a forest as *Georgia* is now; and in these few years, by the wise economy of *William Penn*, and those who assisted him, it now gives food to 80,000 inhabitants, and can boast of as fine a City as most in *Europe*.

This new Colony is more likely to succeed than either of the former were, since *Carolina* abounds with provisions, the climate is known, and there are men to instruct in the seasons and nature of cultivating the soil. [...]

There is an occasion now offered for every one, to help forward this design; the smallest benefaction will be received, and applied with the utmost care: —every little will do something; and a great number of small benefactions will amount to a sum capable of doing a great deal of good.

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If any person, moved with the calamities of the unfortunate, shall be inclined to contribute towards their relief, they are desired to pay their benefactions into the Bank of *England*, on account of the Trustees for establishing the Colony of *Georgia* in *America*; or else, to any of the Trustees, who are, &c.

From *James Oglethorpe, Some Account of the Designs of the Trustees for Establishing the Colony of Georgia in America* (1732)

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<sup>1</sup> to subsist = to provide for the subsistence of

<sup>2</sup> want = poverty

<sup>3</sup> the only want = the only thing missing

<sup>4</sup> set down = débarqués

<sup>5</sup> kept together, that they may be assistant to each other = kept together as a cohesive group in which individuals work together.

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<sup>6</sup> benefactions = donations

<sup>7</sup> lay them out in = use them to buy

<sup>8</sup> in trust for the poor = the trustees will own the colony not for their own benefits but for the benefit of the poor.

<sup>9</sup> perquisite = additional profit, often given in kind.

<sup>10</sup> liberty of conscience = liberty of religion

<sup>11</sup> the Society here refers to *The Trustees for establishing the Colony of Georgia in America*.

<sup>12</sup> profligate = dissolute

<sup>13</sup> duties = taxes