

1793. nel as she had come. Wrote immediately to the trustees, and  
 Thursd. sent back the Perseverance with my letters.  
 Oct. 10.

Friday, Same employment. It has before been observed that sick-  
 11th. ness, fear, and despondency, have had strange effects upon the  
 minds of the colonists: Indeed they are at this moment, every  
 one of them, almost ideots; their mental faculties seem entirely  
 worn out; loss of memory, or difficulty of recollection, with  
 which they are all more or less affected, I have been accus-  
 tomed to think they had in some degree really feigned; and had  
 attributed to indolence, in a great measure, their frequent omis-  
 sion of doing things which they had been ordered to do, and  
 which was always excused by "I really forgot, sir:" But to-day I  
 have had two remarkable instances of the total failure of memory  
 in Mr. Hood and Peter Hayles. The former thought he was  
 well enough to do a little work, and begged I would give him  
 something to do. I accordingly lined a post for him to square,  
 part of which he did square, and then eat his dinner; went to  
 work again on the post, left off, laid down and took a nap,  
 awoke and came into the square about an hour afterwards, that is,  
 about five o'clock. I asked him how he proceeded with the post,  
 and if he felt himself at all fatigued? He asked what post? "The  
 post I lined for you to square in the morning," I replied. "I  
 do not recollect your lining any post," said he. "Who then  
 lined the post that you have been squaring to-day?" I asked. "I  
 have not been squaring any post to-day," was his reply. "Why  
 what have you been working at then?" I asked. "I have not  
 been at any work to-day," was the answer. I took this man to  
 the post where he had squared it, and yet could not convince  
 him that it had been done by him this very day: he remembered  
 nothing at all of the matter. This seems almost incredible, but