

childhood formed the pattern for a chequered life during which he seemed unable to remain in one place or to tolerate the company of one group of his fellows for any length of time. The observations in his journal are those of a man brought up in an agricultural environment. He reveals himself as sensitive and romantic with acute powers of observation, but impulsive and quick tempered and given to introspection while excusing himself for his shortcomings. Forced by circumstances he suffered the perils and privations of a sealer always acutely aware that his manner and education set him apart from, and under the suspicion of, his tough companions and perhaps heightened his affinity with the indigenous peoples in the countries he visited.

After a brief account of his childhood culminating in a short time spent in a merchant's office in Liverpool, 1817, he launches into a record of his adventures at sea commencing with an account of a voyage to Bahia, Brazil under the care of Captain Walker, a brother officer of Lieutenant Joseph Bage Boulton, R.N., 1791-1865, who seems to be the brother most closely associated with John and into whose hands the Journal is likely to have come. John returned to England on board H.M. Schooner *Congo* serving as a clerk. At this stage of research it seems, in spite of the apparent evidence of Navy lists and family belief, that this is the only time he actually served with the Royal Navy although he mentions and enjoys his visits to naval vessels encountered in his wanderings. Next comes a short visit to Barbados where his family hoped he would settle. As always he reveals his skill in passing on vivid impressions. "On arriving at Pool Plantation, my destination, I alighted from my horse and walked up to the house where I found a middle-aged, swarthy, emaciated man, sitting on one side of the doorway, with his feet up against the opposite side, he appeared to take no notice of me, but kept his eyes fixed with a stupid and vacant look, expressive of nothing, but vacancy itself". In spite of this unpromising introduction Boulton stayed with the planter and his family for several months and was treated with great kindness until a situation was found for him on a neighbouring estate. However, after spending four months there he departed in disgust at the brutal treatment of the slaves. His first remarks are significant.

. . . at intervals the crack of the Cowskin (whip) was to be heard, succeeded in some instances by yells, but in more, by sullen, dogged silence. They [the slaves] all saw I was an Englishman, from my colour, being much more florid than those white people born in the country, and remarks were made, sufficiently audible for me, that convinced me they wished nothing more than that they had their master under the lash for a few hours.

Here the pattern of affinity with non-Europeans is established and follows