

After we were come to the Height of thirty Degrees, thirty-one Minutes, our Pilots judged themselves enough to the East, to be in no Danger on making the South, of running on any of the Shoals I mentioned. So they confidently run Southward, and in a few Days we made a great deal of Way, sailing on a Sea always fine, and carried by the Trade Winds. The 27th of August, at eight in the Morning, the Sailor, who was upon the Watch on the Round-Top, cried out Land, which caused a great deal of Joy, but it was of short Continuance; for the Sailor coming down, they asked him if the Land was high, and he replied that it was very low, so of Consequence it could only be one of the *Caiquis*, or the *Turk Islands*.

We were also very fortunate in having discovered them by Day, for we had infallibly been wrecked if we had come upon them in the Night, and no Person had escaped, because these Islands have no Strands, and the greatest Part of them are bordered with Shoals, which advance far into the Sea, and which are divided by little Channels; where there is not Water enough for Boats. On the other Hand they are very low, and we cannot perceive them at Night, till we are upon them.

But we were not safe because we had discovered the Danger: The Land before us appeared to be a pretty large Island, and pretty well wooded in some Places; this made us judge, that it was the grand *Caique*, of Consequence, that we were forty or fifty Leagues too much to the West. To gain our proper Longitude, we must have gone up again to the North above two or three hundred Leagues, which would certainly have taken up five or six Weeks Navigation, and we had scarce Water and Provisions enough to serve us for fifteen Days, with great Economy. The Captain was greatly embarrassed; he saw the Faults of his Pilots, and might blame himself for having depended too much upon them, for not having taken Observations himself above two or three Times, and for having always preferred the Reckoning of the second Pilot, a very presumptuous and blundering young Fellow, to that of the first, who was more experienced and skillful, and who had never approved their Manœuvre.

Nevertheless they were obliged to take some Resolution immediately: A Gust of Wind from the North, that should have surprized us, and thrown us on these low Coasts, would infallibly have destroyed us. But as they could take no Resolution which had not its Inconveniency, the Captain would have the Advice of every Body. Some were for making the best Way to *Carolina*, where we might arrive in ten or twelve Days, and buy Provisions.