militia were not so well trained and exercised, but made a pretty good and handsome appearance. N. B. The militia and artillery of Charlestown are said to consist of 1,300 men in the whole list from 16 to 60 years old; Dined with Mr. Wm. Eden afore mentioned.

WEDS. 5. Rode out to Mr. George Marshal's country seat 3 miles from town on Ashley River. Dined there; viewed his plantation; saw his rice and indigo growing in the field, and his Negroes hoeing it. The rice grows much like rye but somewhat finer and paler. The indigo is a dark colored weed growing on a clumsy stalk which branches much and bears single leaves somewhat like buckwheat and abt. as high. I viewed also his vats for steeping, beating and leming his indigo, the trough for pressing it, conveniences for drying, etc., in short the whole process; but it not being the season for making it, I could not have an opportunity of seeing the process performed.

Mr. Marshal is a Scotch gentleman of great humanity and courtesy....

Now I have left Charlestown an agreeable and polite place in which I was used very genteelly and contracted much acquaintance for the time I staid there. The heats are much too severe, the water bad, the soil sandy, the timber too much evergreen; but with all these disadvantages, 'tis a flourishing place, capable of vast improvement; will have I fear some uncomfortable bands of banditti on its frontiers soon, it's distance from proper authority having already drawn there great numbers of very idle dissolute people who begin to be very troublesome....

Janet Schaw on Her Visit
to Wilmington, North Carolina, 1774

I have been in town a few days, and have had an opportunity to make some little observations on the manners of a people so new to me. The ball... was intended as a civility, therefore I will not criticize it, and tho' I have not the same reason to spare the company, yet I will not fatigue you with a description, which however lively or just, would at best resemble a Dutch picture, where the injudicious choice of the subject destroys the merit of the painting. Let it suffice to say that a ball we had, where were dresses, dancing and ceremonies laughable enough, but there was no object on which my own ridicule fixed equal to myself and the figure I made, dressed out in all my British airs with a high head and a hoop and trudging thro' the unpaved streets in embroidered shoes by the light of a lantern carried by a black wench half naked. No chair, no carriage—good leather shoes need none. The ridicule was the silk shoes in such a place. I have however gained some most amiable and agreeable acquaintance amongst the Ladies; many of whom would make a figure in any part of the world, and I will not fail to cultivate their esteem, as they appear worthy of mine.