

father, he took a sea voyage, embarking for Hispaniola (San Domingo) on the sloop "Charming Sally," Captain Robert Lillibridge in command, on July 2, 1791. The "Charming Sally" reached port safely, but the young Gruber was to witness while on the island the rebellion by which France lost possession of the West India island. He secured a position as compositor on a French paper, and during his stay on the island, his health was much improved. When the rebellion reached its height, Gruber was compelled to disguise himself as a sailor and flee the island "amid scenes of the most terrible bloodshed and carnage, ever recorded in history." His voyage home was just as eventful, for a violent storm arose, when the vessel on which he sailed neared Cape May; the ship was blown back to sea, and for weeks the crew were in peril of their lives from the storm and threatening starvation.

The ship made the port of Philadelphia successfully and Gruber worked in that city for a short time at the printing trade. In 1793 he removed to Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, and on the 26th of June entered into partnership with Gotlob Jungman, who was engaged in the publication of the Neue Unpartheyische Readinger Zeitung und Anzeigs-Nachrichten.⁵ It was

⁵ Ibid. p. [7-9].