



SIXTEEN YEARS

IN THE

WEST INDIES.

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CAPADOSE.

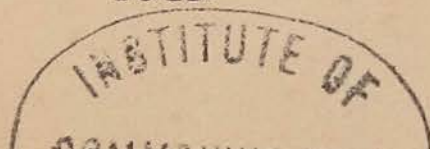
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CHAPTER I.

TRINIDAD.

So many works having lately been written on the West Indies, perhaps it may appear egotistical in me to presume that I can offer any thing new ; but a residence of sixteen years may have enabled me to see many

places, which mere travellers amongst these colonies have passed over ; and such I hope will be found to be the case by those persons who may favor me by a perusal of these volumes. Nor is egotism the only charge I have to dread. I fear a want of order will be found in my arrangement ; for, as my visits to the different Islands were many, and at various periods, I cannot fashion my notes into the form of a regular tour.

Apologising therefore for any want of method they may discover, and bidding them remember, I did not run through the Islands in one of the Royal Mail Packets, merely catching a passing glance of the beautiful objects which even such a visit would present, but that I travelled into the interior, climbing many of the mountains, exploring the valleys, lingering for months together amongst the people, or in the towns, I will tax their patience no longer with further preamble ; but commence my wanderings, with an account of Trinidad, as I saw it both before and after the emancipation.

On the fourteenth of May, 1839, I left Tobago, in H.M.S. Delight, (such is I believe the orthodox manner of commencing a tour,) wishing to reach Port of Spain as speedily as possible. The sea was rough, the weather fine, though somewhat hazy, and as the packet kept away from the coast I could not enjoy so good a view of the scenery as is generally obtained. At an early hour of the evening we glided past the North Post, and a little before sunset entered, through the Grand Boca into the beautiful gulf of Paria. The wind then became adverse to our reaching Port of Spain, but as the mists dispersed, we had, so long as daylight lasted, an interesting, though transient view of that part of the South American coast, called Cumana—interesting from associations connected with the past ; for, however opposed to the sentimental the traveller may be such a spot must recal the memory of Columbus and his gallant crew, who first sailed into that gulf, visited, and bestowed its present appellation upon the Island to which we were hastening under such

different auspices. And if Columbus could be forgotten when regarding Trinidad for the first time, the sight of the Caroni, as it dashes its billows to the ocean, would lead the beholder to the time, a few years later, when Sir Walter Raleigh made his successful attack upon San Joseph. That Columbus discovered Trinidad, is beyond all doubt; whether he resided there and explored a considerable part of it, as many of its inhabitants believe, I leave others to decide; but his name, and that of Sir Walter Raleigh, give such an interest to the scene as I should be sorry to have taken from me. And the next morning when the sun rose, and, as the day advanced, shone brightly, on the shores on either side of the gulf, on its different islets, and gilded the town and shipping in the harbour of Port of Spain, I could not avoid thinking what a contrast all presented to the 31st of July 1498—when first, as Washington Irvine, so beautifully describes it, Columbus sent his boats on shore to obtain water. But a truce to all

this sentiment and digression. Trinidad is no longer inhabited by Caribs; and the fishers' palm leaved huts are now lost in the magnificent buildings of Port of Spain.

Breakfast was just finished on board the Packet when smoke rising from the Paria steam vessel denoted its immediate departure for Point la Brea. Near Point la Brea, lies the celebrated Pitch Lake—and I involuntarily expressed a wish not to lose such an opportunity of visiting it. The Captain kindly offering to send me on board the Paria, I hastily took leave of my fellow passengers, jumped into a boat and rowed briskly on towards the steam vessel, already on its way; in an hour I stood on its deck, and was proceeding with celerity past the quarter of S——, and so close in shore as to afford me a view of the estates on that coast, and the adjoining district of San Fernando, where we stopped a short time to land and receive passengers, goods, &c.

This ceremony completed, we proceeded on to Point la Brea, where we anchored

about four o'clock p m. I dined on board, for as the sun was intensely hot I resolved not proceed on my projected excursion till the cool of evening.

As soon as the heat became less oppressive I went on shore accompanied by the captain of the steam-boat and one of the passengers, made a short visit to a gentleman in charge of an estate, to which, as he told me, a part, at least, if not the whole of the lake belongs, and then started eager for a sight of that wonderful phenomenon regarded as the greatest natural curiosity of Trinidad.

During our walk over a broad and *then* very hard road about a mile in length, I was surprised by the sight of a very large locust tree, which I think has never been mentioned by any writer. It is rather singular it should have been unnoticed, for, in addition to its being very unusual to see these trees in frequented places, it is not far distant from the lake, on the right of the pathway, and certainly forms one of the most attractive objects.



I saw one of these trees in Tobago, of considerable height, having forty or fifty feet of straight trunk, large in circumference, before the branches commence, and then apparently extending as many more to the topmost bough ; it was profusely laden with fruit which consists of pods, in shape like a bean, the shell of which is extremely hard, and thick as a Spanish dollar. These pods vary in size from three to eight inches in length and from one to four in thickness or depth, are of the colour of tanned leather, and rough like a shagreen case. When opened, which is not effected without some difficulty, the natives take out a sort of friable pith not unpleasant to the taste, having a slight resemblance to gingerbread, but dry and husky ; each pod contains three grains, or seeds, about the size of a large filbert, rather red in colour, when first taken out, but soon turning black as jet, can easily be polished, and being very hard, capable of being converted into ornaments,

&c. The pod itself is made into snuff boxes, powder flasks, &c.

Labat, a celebrated French author, tells of having made many small articles from the pod of the courbari or locust tree, but he was mistaken in asserting that it bears fruit twice in twelve months, like all other fruit trees in the West Indies. In Tobago, where I saw this magnificent tree, the inhabitants esteem it a fortuitous circumstance if they obtain a good crop once each year. It requires a growth of many years to bring these trees to perfection which accounts for their rarity and the comparatively few planted, whilst an infinite number have been cut down by Europeans for the sake of the wood, which is useful for axle-trees and wood-work for mills. The leaves are of a dark green colour, rather small in comparison to the size of the branches and fruit, forming a beautiful contrast to the flowers, which are of a yellowish white and of oval shape.

The tree I now regarded was not of such

large dimensions, but its beautiful branches were bending under the weight of fruit such as I have described.

It was sunset when we reached the lake and the air deliciously cool, thus enabling us to traverse its vast surface without difficulty, more particularly as planks were placed across the fissures or chasms, so accurately described by Doctor Nugent of Antigua, and inserted in the work of Mrs. Carmichael. To me the lake had the appearance of an immense level plain with here and there thickets of shrubs, grass and trees growing out of the bitumen, which was then of a very dark colour and generally quite hard ; some few places yielded to the impression of the foot and were of the consistency of pitch.

The water flowing through the chasms was perfectly clear but luke-warm and of a disagreeable, acid taste. This warmth, no doubt, was owing to the heat of the sun, which, however, had no effect upon the solid part of the surface which was quite dry

though the day had been one of the hottest ever known. Sir James Alexander, in his account of this extraordinary place, says "The heat of the surface obliged me to dance up and down from the scorching of my feet, having taken off my shoes to wade through the broad chasms of water, across which, at that time, there were no planks." Probably Sir James visited it under mid-day heat, or that the effect of the sun is not always the same ; certain it is, that this evening, the surface of the lake was quite cool though the sun was still above the horizon.

I was in hopes I should have found ships at La Brea laden with the matter dug from the lake, but the ardour, which for a time prevailed, in search of what was considered highly valuable, had abated. Cargos of it that had been shipped to England were not approved, the different trials made were declared failures, and though in some parts of France it was said to answer for improving foot paths, in the manner it is

used for roads in the vicinity of the lake and the district of Naparima, few hopes were entertained of its becoming more useful. Still, though the prospect of its ever being a source of wealth appears closed, a time may come when some qualities more available may be discovered. A great deal of the bitumen is used for fuel in the distillation of rum, and partially in the sugar manufactories, as well as for steam navigation : and the question has arisen in my mind whether it could not be made of use in gas works. All this must be the result of experiment and time.

I was disappointed in seeing the bitumen taken from the lake, but I did not enjoy the beauties of its diversified margin the less ; shrubs, trees, aloes, flowers and pine-apples, all luxuriate around it, and during the day, birds and butterflies flying hither and thither, detract from the loneliness of the scene. We gathered a pineapple, the only one we found ripe, the

captain pared and divided it with his cutlass, and we enjoyed its fine flavour.

We lingered till the calm stillness of night imparted an aspect of gloom, which, my curiosity satisfied, I gladly exchanged for hospitable refreshment at the house of the gentleman before named.

I felt no wish to prolong my stay at La Brea, which, though prettily situated, is only a small village consisting of poorly built cottages, the only one of neat appearance being that of our host. Ten o'clock found me on board the steam-boat, in which, next morning, we weighed anchor to return to Port of Spain, steering in the first instance for San Fernando, a distance of thirty miles, along a shore rich in luxuriant estates, cane fields sprinkled amongst noble forests, and conspicuous from their bright, green houses with their pleasure grounds stretching down to the water's edge, interspersed with cocoa-nut and palm trees. Whilst we stopped at San Fernando which is much superior to La Brea and

pleasantly situated at the foot of the mountain, I paid a hasty visit to the barracks, erected on a gentle eminence immediately above the town and then occupied by an officer and forty men belonging to the 74th Regiment. The meeting a friend, and the sight of numerous pretty houses in the vicinity of this little town, made me enjoy this interruption in my voyage exceedingly, and I think had I known, that, from the boat having approached very near to the landing-place for the convenience of the passengers, and the tide falling, we should have been detained an hour, San Fernando would have been my resting place for the night. But at length we got clear of the mud, and the continued loveliness of the shore soon made me forget the vexation I had felt at the delay.

Near Point a Pierre a magnificent estate called Plaisance was pointed out to me, and how much I wished to land and examine the warm springs situated on it; but there was no vessel near to convey me to them, so I could

only promise myself that excursion another time.

I landed at Port of Spain, after four years absence, late at night—hastened to an hotel and betook myself to that rest the exertion of the previous two days demanded.



## CHAPTER II.

NEXT morning my first care was to repair to the Packet, Delight, to seek, for the luggage I left on board when I so hurriedly transferred myself to the Paria—that duty performed, I returned to the Hotel to breakfast, then waited upon the acting governor, visited some friends, and passed the remainder of the day rambling about the town. Four years had witnessed great alterations and improvements, and as I walked through the

long wide streets all running parallel to the sea, and shaded with trees, looked on its splendid buildings all of stone and uniform in appearance, and inhaled the delicious breeze from the ocean, I could but own the truth of the general assertion, that Port of Spain is the finest town in the West Indies ; whilst its situation on the shore of the splendid Gulf of Paria, scarcely, I think, surpassed by that of Naples, the highly cultivated lands around producing all the luxuries of life, the entire freedom from hurricanes, which cause such devastation in many of the other colonies, and the exemption in a great degree from fatal sickness, combine to make it the most desirable as a residence.

I dined that day with my friend Dangaud, and made the first arrangement to commence my tour by borrowing his chaise to take me to San Joseph, the following morning after I had taken leave of the acting Governor and his family at the Government House, St. Ann's, and enjoyed a stroll through the beautiful grounds attached to that domain.

On my road to San Joseph, I saw, for the first time in the West Indies, a turnpike gate. This, and many other objects I had previously seen, recalled to mind the late Sir Ralph Woodford, who offered to make turnpike roads through the colony if the inhabitants would consent to pay toll. This proposition, had it been acceded to, would have proved a means of great prosperity, but the affluent inhabitants, from a feeling I cannot understand, declined the offer.

San Joseph, the ancient capital of the Island, is a quiet, healthy spot, frequently serving as a convalescent post for the troops at St. James's, and certainly for such a purpose no place could be better chosen. The inhabitants complain of its dulness, for their solitude is no longer enlivened by the band of the 1st W. I. Regt., to which they had been accustomed from 1825, till the chieftain, Donald Stewart, excited his African followers, then his fellow soldiers, (all being alike, enlisted recruits of the 1st W. I. Regt.) to revolt. But the beauty of its situation

renders it a most interesting spot, and of its dulness I saw nothing ; many kind friends were there to give me a warm welcome, and I hastened to meet them, resolving San Joseph should be my head quarters for a few weeks, to enable me to enjoy their society in the intervals of coming and going. There were several estates in the neighbourhood I wished to see, and I should thus diversify my pleasures.

The barracks were now occupied by two officers and forty men of the 1st W. I. Regt., an officer and twenty men of the 74th Regt., and a staff assistant surgeon, whose office was nearly a sinecure, this year at least, although, he assured me, the previous one had been very unhealthy.

When at San Joseph, I never neglect to enjoy the luxury of a bath in the river, which in one part forms a natural basin never less than eight feet deep, with a fine sandy bottom. A shelving rock a few feet above the surface invites the practiced swimmer to a dive, whilst one less skilful may choose

a little to the right, where the depth varies from one to four feet, a spot, to indulge in a similar pleasure. But let both the practiced and unskilful swimmer beware of the shoals of small fish perceptible on both sides, or, on the slightest cessation of movement, he will be attacked by those biting creatures, and the enjoyment of his bath destroyed.

I had intended to go to Arima early the next morning, but the difficulty of procuring a horse detained me. To hire one was not practicable ; the officers had none, or I should have been instantly supplied ; and here let me observe that it would be advisable for the Government to allow every officer, in the West Indies, forage for a horse, or the means of keeping one. However, the delay was not to be regretted as I was enabled to participate in the pleasure of a dinner given by the officer of the 74th Regt., to celebrate the christening of his child.

A horse, at last, was kindly lent to me,

and much obliged I felt for the loan, but surely such an animal never before tried the patience of an impatient traveller. It had a sore back, and had lost a shoe, but the hope of getting another, or a mule to supply its place, from some friend on the road, induced me to proceed though it was but slowly.

Disappointment met me everywhere, so I was obliged to conquer my impatience, and stifle as well as I could my feelings of pity for the creature I bestrode, and jog on. As a proof of the extreme dryness of the season, I state, that on arriving at the ford of San Joseph, intersecting the river, I found it quite dry, and such had seldom if ever before been the case. The road was very dusty, the sun intensely hot, and even after its decline the air very sultry, but the beautiful scenery around compensated for these inconveniences. Lovely as ever looked the estates, Streatham Lodge, El Dorado, Orange Grove, Paradise, Laurel Hill, the Garden, and various others to the right and

left offering to view superb houses, extensive pastures (many of which resemble the parks of noblemen or gentlemen in England), and luxuriant full grown sugar canes, with a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers. All these beauties with the many coloured birds fluttering in every direction tended to divert the tedium of a compulsory slow ride. Arima is estimated at only eleven miles distance from San Joseph, but the state of my horse and the calls I made on my way, though brief ones, prevented my reaching the house of Mr. S—, the corregidor, till past seven o'clock. Nothing can be more refreshing than hospitality such as I received from Mr. S—, who, though not able to accommodate me in his own house, directed the Casa-real to be opened, and everything provided for my comfort, that of the men who accompanied me, and for my poor horse.

To Mr. S—y, the Abbé, or curate of the village, I was also indebted for much kind attention. Both he and the Corregidor opposed my determination to continue my

tour to Band a Leste the following morning, urging that the season was too far advanced, and heavy rain, such as would render the roads impassable from the overflow of the rivers, might be daily and hourly expected—particularly after the long drought of the present year—another reason they alleged for my stay was, that the horse would be better. These arguments were very good, but I knew I could get a mule at Touroure, and the weather was now fine.

Like the generality of mankind, as the present was propitious, I did not regard the future, so, on the twentieth of May, taking farewell of the Corregidor and the Curate—the former giving me a sketch of part of my route, and the latter a cup of delicious coffee, I set out for Touroure.

Hitherto, I had travelled what is considered in the West Indies a good carriage road, but towards Touroure, the country assumed a wild aspect—the road becoming bad, then worse and worse, being intersected by the rivers, Arima, Maher, Guampo,



Arips, Valentia, Quarro, &c., &c. Sugar canes are seen in great abundance the whole ride from Port of Spain to Arima, but no cocoa trees till after leaving the latter, then increasing in number to Guampo, at which place are estates of that produce to some extent, belonging to French and Spanish families. The cultivation of cocoa was formerly a source of great emolument ; but the demand has so decreased that thousands and thousands of those trees, once so valuable, now obtain but a slender subsistence for the possessors. Gigantic trees of various kinds attracted my notice—the most conspicuous amongst which was the Balatas.

The only place of entertainment at Touroure, or indeed for many miles distance, is kept, or was at that time, by an old Sergeant of one of the West Indian Regiments, who has, with more of his discharged companions, located there for some years. His thatched cottage afforded no good ‘entertainment for man and beast,’ yet I was glad to rest beneath its roof for an

hour, and to leave my horse in his care till my return, taking instead a small mule with a very bad character to carry me on to Manzanilla.

A searcher after adventures or a lover of the picturesque would be delighted with a ride through such an almost impassable wilderness as it is from Touroure to Manzanilla, the road intersected by frightful ravines across which, in many places, were rough, slippery trunks of trees, scarcely wide enough for a footstep, whilst the wooden bridges over some of the streams or rivulets were no less difficult to cross. I encountered about forty of these rustic bridges, over which I walked, but the mule, who evidently did not wish to retrieve his bad character, was obliged to be hauled by ropes through the muddy water by two strong men.

In the rainy season these rivulets rise to a great height and overflow the banks, but now, the water being shallow, the banks were high and the mud very deep. A great want of cultivation appeared all

around me, but the trees were beautiful, and amongst them the balatas and silk mahot especially claimed my admiration, the latter from the peculiarity of its fruit (if I may so term it,) which, with the exception of the toes, perfectly resembles the foot of a hare.

It was dark when I came to the beginning of the quarter called Manzanilla, and in the obscurity, crossing a small bridge that appeared to me formed of smooth planks but which was in reality a round, slippery trunk of a tree, the mule fell and I was precipitated with some little violence on to the hard wood, my face much bruised, my eye much cut. Judge then how glad I felt to reach "The Place," and, though I found there but poor accommodation, having only a hammock to sleep in, how I enjoyed my rest. Those who love early rising and a walk on the sea shore can imagine why I, in spite of the pain in my face, was up with the birds and hastened to gaze on the sea for the first time on the eastern coast of

Trinidad, and how I relished a breakfast after such a ramble.

Again I went along the seashore towards Mayaro, and at eleven came to Nariva; there crossing the river Mitan proceeded, still by the sea, to the river Ortoire, which I also forded, and leaving the shore took a path to the right leading through corn fields to an estate called Malgré tout, leaving which to the right, I again emerged on the beach. The gentleman I wished to see at Nariva was gone to Mayaro on magisterial business, and thither I followed, having made an appointment to call on him as I returned from Beau Sejour, the property of two gentlemen, one of whom, perceiving my approach, and recognizing by the aid of a lorgnette who it was, came forward with a cordial welcome.

We had not met for five years, and I own I was surprised at his discovering me, disguised as I was in a strange kind of travelling garb and a bruised face. In his wife, to whom he had been recently united, I recognised a niece of my old friend Mon-

sieur Germon, who had resided many years at San Joseph, and whose hospitable doors were always open to the officers. I was especially a favored guest, and when he left to return to France, and pressed me to accompany him, nothing but my duty as a soldier prevented me. I was in good health, and though certain of obtaining leave of absence, I refrained from asking. We parted full of hope in another meeting, but soon after his arrival at Toulouse, Monsieur Germon was taken ill, and died, *Je vais retourner a vous mes quatre vingt dix enfans*, was his expression, in parting, to the ninety slaves on his estate ; and when I lost a valued friend, they were deprived of the best of masters.

Soon after my arrival the associé came, and joined in hospitable attentions to the traveller—making a pleasant addition to our party, and assisting in inducing me to promise to stay and inspect the sugar works and other parts of the estate. The principal dwelling house of Beau Sejour is advantageously situated on a gentle emi-

nence looking over a fine pasture, or rather lawn, and level lands filled with luxuriant sugar canes, extending to the sea shore; whilst in front, inclining a little to the right, in the distance, is Point Galeota: the whole well watered, the lands rich, fertile, and extensive. The river Ortoire, flowing through a great part of the estate, is of good width, and navigable for boats to a considerable distance.

I have been all my life a soldier, and am, therefore, but little skilled in the technical terms proper to describe steam engines and sugar mills, but those at Beau Sejour appeared perfect; and such of my readers as may regret the omission, I refer to a work by a clever English gentleman, published in London,\* and which contains a full description of the cultivation of the sugar cane, the mills and the whole process of distillation.

Had I read this valuable description, before viewing these mills how much more interesting would everything have seemed.

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\* "Nature and Cultivation of the Sugar Cane."  
By G. R. Porter, Esq.

The greatest drawback to agriculture in the West Indies is the idleness of the Negroes, who work only four hours in the day, and then, notwithstanding the high wages they obtain, very negligently. Three quarters of a dollar each per diem, or rather for four hours superficial work, besides other advantages equivalent to a dollar, four shillings and two-pence British, is what is usually paid to them, many will not work at all as long as they have any money, and, upon the slightest word of reproach, quit the estate for ever.

My friends were in great anxiety, lest, through the misconduct of these wilful labourers, the crops of this year should be lost, and as every month increases their insolence there was a worse prospect for the future.

The principal estates in the district of Mayaro are Malgrétout, Mayaro, Beau Sejour, Plaisance, Saint Margaret, Lagondoux, besides many rural farms where cocoa-nut trees, vegetables and roots, usually termed ground provisions, such as yams, sweet

potatoes, cassava, tanniers, &c., are cultivated. Near the coast many of the inhabitants are chiefly supported by the manufacture of cocoa nut oil.

Travellers in the islands must not be particular, they cannot roll along roads smooth as a bowling-green, reposing in their carriages ; nay, like Tantalus, they must sometimes look at luxuries without enjoying them. Thus, nearly the whole way from Manzanilla to Point Galeota, a distance of twenty five or thirty miles, avenues of cocoa nut trees seem to offer you a shelter from the scorching rays of the sun ; but you only escape one dilemma to fall into another ; on the beach you are in danger of being capsized by your horse stumbling against the heaps of broken shells thrown up by the sea on that stormy coast, but in the avenues 'tis impossible to get on at all, for the ground is covered by fallen nuts, and the husks of those which have been opened to obtain the pulp, to extract the oil. The conchologist would be equally tantalized,



for amongst the heaps of shells which he would be delighted to see, scarcely a whole one is to be found ; repeatedly I alighted from my horse to seek for one but in vain.

At point Galeota—a discovery of a sort of fuel, resembling English coal, had just been made, and I witnessed the first experiment of using it. A small pile of English coal, one of bitumen, from the Pitch Lake, and one of the newly found fuel, were placed upon the ground in the open air close to each other, and all set light to at the same moment. The English coal and that (or its similitude) of Beau Sejour, blazed up and burnt perfectly clear, but the bitumen did not blaze, only smoked. The engineer gave the preference to the new fuel, which was better he said for a steam engine, as the flame was equally strong as that from the English coal, and left no cinders ; he added that the Pitch Lake produce is not available for the steam engine or the manufacture of sugar, but for that of rum it answered well, and taking me to a furnace, he opened the

door and shewed the bitumen burning with a bright flame. The proprietors had neither of them seen the spot where the fuel had been found, and were quite ignorant of its extent, but full of hope as to the result ; they determined upon immediately examining the *nature* of, and the importance to be attached to the discovery.\*

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\*I afterwards heard these hopes were disappointed.

## CHAPTER III.

CIRCUMSTANCES prevented me extending my journey beyond Point Galeota, and obliged me to return by my former route. The ferry at the river Ortoire is crossed by means of a canoe kept by a Spanish Peon, who takes the traveller and his saddle, if riding, into the boat, and fastens the horse to the prow. This ferry is not broad, though deep, but what is rather singular, very smooth, notwithstanding its nearness to the sea ;

some parts of it are, I believe, frequented by that most wonderful fish the lamantin, or manatee, or vaca marina (sea cow) so forcibly described in the work of Mons. Labat. At the river Mitan I found myself in a terrible perplexity, for my friend, the justice, upon whom I depended for a boat, imagining, notwithstanding my promise, I should be kept at Beau Sejour, by the entreaties of my friends, had employed all his boats up the river. In vain I shouted, the high wind prevented my voice, and that of my two followers, from being heard for a long time, and when I succeeded in making myself observed, no boat was at hand. I knew of no ford, and was obliged to wait till a messenger was sent to shew me one close to the sea. The surf at this time was very high, and the waves were rushing with headlong impetuosity into the river—necessity compelled me to conquer my dislike to a wetting, after having been broiled all day by the sun. Through surf and waves I rode whilst my companions stripped and waded across, and when safe on

the opposite side a heavy shower fell and gave us as complete a soaking with fresh water as we had just received from the sea. Many were the apologies made for leaving me in such a strait, but dry clothes which I always carry in a tin case upon such excursions soon made me comfortable, and whilst dinner was preparing I set off to inspect the cocoa nut oil manufactory of which M—— is the lessee. I could not see the machinery of the mill in operation, as nearly all the work-people had left in consequence of a slight reprimand he had given them for impertinence, and disrespect to the gentleman, his assistant, who being disturbed late one night by their boisterous singing, dancing, and noisy music, mildly requested them to go to a greater distance from his lodging. Instead of complying with this reasonable request, they told him he might go and sleep at the mill, for they should not move to please him. He complained of this insolence to the head of the establish-

ment, whose rebuke, mild as it was, provoked their instant departure.

The estate of Nariva is not nearly so fertile as many at a little distance ; owing to the soil being sandy, the cocoa nut trees are not so large, nor is the fruit to be compared to that of the East Indies ; but it was abundantly supplied with herds of horned cattle, pigs, poultry, and fish, from the river Mitan, as well as from the sea ; very large oysters are found, and I partook of a dish of a kind called kuffum, said to be better known at Barbadoes than there, and certainly a great delicacy.

After breakfast, next morning, I left Nariva, accompanied by my friend, whose magisterial duties called him to Manzanilla, having previously inspected a large pasture cleared under his directions with a number of cattle feeding on it all in good condition.

We arrived at Manzanilla about noon, and after resting till sunset I again resumed my journey, not very much delighted at exchanging the horse I had taken to carry me thence to

Beau Sejour, for the stubborn mule ; but instead of going to Touroure I proceeded in a contrary direction, to Nariva, towards Manzanilla point ; I crossed the river Lebranche, where, about fifteen months before, an English gentleman, Doctor Warden, had been drowned. How this fatal accident occurred no one could tell. The people in the neighbourhood say that when the Doctor attempted the passage of the river the water was low, and the next morning his body, and that of his horse, were found floating with the tide.

At high water, in stormy weather, or during spring tides, the river Lebranche, where it flows into the sea, becomes very deep and dangerous to cross, but this evening the tide had fallen, and the water was only ankle deep, and very smooth, yet still my stubborn mule made a great difficulty in crossing.

On the other side of the river I met, by appointment, the teacher of the Mico school, to whom I had been introduced that morning, and he conducted me by Manzanilla bay

to the Point, and passing the unoccupied house of the late Doctor Warden we arrived at his dwelling, near the Mico school, recently established, a little before the close of day.

This gentleman was the only European, or white man, residing in the district, and being a bachelor, his time, when not engaged in teaching, must have been passed very dully, and so tired had he become that he was on the point of leaving, and was to be succeeded by a married man who had a large family.

The school consisted of between fifty and sixty scholars, including adults, and on Sundays about two hundred persons assembled to attend prayers, read by him, as there is no church, chapel, or clergyman of any sect throughout the district, which is inhabited chiefly by the families of discharged African soldiers, who, attracted by the fertility of the soil, located themselves in that district. But though such was their intention in coming there, they are too indolent for so important an object, for, whilst they possess



lands capable of enriching them in the highest degree, they simply cultivate what they require for present support—a small quantity of rice, cocoa, coffee, Indian corn, ground provisions, and some few of the tropical fruits ; with property abounding with the finest trees and materials—their cottages are poor looking, miserable dwellings, offering a sad contrast to those whitewashed dwellings covered with honeysuckles and roses, and standing in neatly cultivated gardens, which form such a pleasing portion of the landscape scenery of England.

Manzanilla Point is a considerable height, commanding an extensive view of the adjacent country, stretching to the sea on one side, whilst on the other in fine weather may be distinguished Points Mayaro and Galeota.

I started at an early hour next morning for Morne Calabash, about nine miles distant, first taking a cup of coffee with the teacher, who certainly had no cause to thank me, for having lengthened his day in such a

solitude. The road was bad, but the rising sun made every thing cheerful, and gave fresh beauty to the pretty white and pale pink blossoms of the Arnotta trees or shrubs, with their ripe pods half opened, disclosing the red seed which forms the paint, deepening the hues of the flowers, and shining through the leaves of the trees, giving a charm even to the poor thatched cottages of the Africans.

Cocoa and coffee with orange, banana, and other fruit trees or shrubs were sprinkled about in profusion ; but I looked in vain, along this tract of country, for the Mammee apple, Alligator, or Avocado pear, the Shaddock, or Citron tree. What a pity that, instead of allowing the greater part of their lands to be covered with useless trees, high brushwood, long grass, and noxious weeds, they do not cultivate the above named fruits which would so well repay them for their labour.

Provision grounds, Indian corn and rice fields are seen in the vicinity of the huts,

but the greater part of the productions are cultivated in the hollows and ravines in the deep recesses of the forests, and well is the tourist repaid for his toil in exploring these spots. Toil it can scarcely be called, for so many objects of interest absorb the attention ; at one time lost in admiration at the immense trees bearing such a different appearance to those of the forests of England ; at another, emerging from their depth and gloom, you utter an exclamation of pleasure at the sight of a smiling valley or ravines glowing in the luxuriance of cultivation.

At seven o'clock my guide stopped at a cottage on the ascent of Morne Calabash, where refreshment is provided for travellers. I alighted, and found several women employed in spreading grains of cocoa to dry, and shelling ears of Indian corn—some of which were given to my mule, whilst prepared cocoa, fresh eggs, and cakes made of the corn meal were placed before me ; these, with some biscuit that the teacher of the Mico school had sent for me, formed an excellent

breakfast. My followers partook of nearly the same fare, only, from choice substituting salt fish for fresh eggs. A few words I here wish to address to my readers and criticisers. Though I thus minutely describe my breakfast, &c. let them not suppose I place too high a value on the good, eatable things of this life, but I entreat them to remember an early ride adds keenness to the appetite, and makes us seek to supply our craving ; on the summit of a mountain we do not look for dainties, therefore I was agreeably surprised, and entered the circumstance in my notebook, and now mention what I had for the benefit of those stay-at-homes who have never breakfasted on Morne Calabash off Indian fare.

This elevation is a sort of table land, with good soil, but not much exceeding in height its neighbouring mountains. The men belonging to the cottage were at work in their grounds, which I walked through, and praised, thus gaining a high place in their estimation, and a name to be boasted of to

other travellers ; whilst I equally pleased the women by purchasing a string of shells naturally threaded to a species of stout, long, variegated sea-weed found on the Manzanilla shore, and which one of them had tastefully plaited.

As I now intended to proceed to Touroure I dismissed the guide I had engaged at the Point, and mounting my mule, no longer stubborn as it advanced towards home, soon left the cheerful country I had passed over in the morning, and came to the wilderness round Touroure. Frequently was I obliged to dismount, and lead my mule through ravines, or across bridges. It is a toilsome journey, winding amongst thick, gloomy woods, with not a hut or sign of habitation to be seen ; many parts recalling to mind those pathless forests of Europe—the resort only of banditti ; but this idea need bring with it, no apprehension to a traveller in the West Indies, for, through the densest woods, most dreary wilds, you may ride unarmed and free from fear as far as man is concerned.

Notwithstanding the dreary, wild look of every thing around, I was struck with the apparent fertility of the soil, and felt a wish arise in my mind that I might travel over this district at a subsequent period, when the streams, now only crossed by trunks of trees, might glide through cultivated fields and gardens, the fertile soil yielding wealth to the children of industry, and the beautiful umbrageous trees, now lost in impenetrable masses, might stand as the principal object in the cheerful landscape.

Arrived at Touroure, cultivation and huts appeared again, and I had the pleasure to find the horse left in charge of the serjeant quite well, and so impatient of restraint as to break from its rope and gallop off a considerable distance into the country. Though still without a shoe, I very gladly re-mounted him when found, and bestowing a gratuity upon the serjeant for his trouble and the use of his mule I proceeded slowly on to Arima, with the intention of calling at Guampo.

The whole way I passed cocoa and coffee grounds, but not in good order, and offering a gloomy illustration of what I had observed in the sugar estates, viz. the want of proper workmen ; in these plantations it is more extraordinary as the labour is so light that children are capable of performing it ; but the weeds are suffered to grow to a great height ; even the gathering the fruit is scarcely performed, a greater part being allowed to drop to the ground either to rot or be devoured by the squirrels, every thing offering a cheerless contrast to the flourishing state of the Colony during the administration of the late Sir Ralph Woodford ; and equally cheerless is the prospect for the future.

These reflections were strengthened by a conversation with the Chevalier de Verteuil, at whose estate (cocoa) I passed the night. He was another old and esteemed friend, brother-in-law to Monsieur German, and after a long chat on bygone days and events we

touched upon the Emancipation Bill and its effect on the colonies.

Surely never was any poor traveller so troubled with his steeds. Arising early the morning after my arrival at Guampo, the first piece of intelligence I heard was, that my horse had escaped again and could no where be found. My host offered me his to go as far as Arima, but as it was the only one he possessed he could not spare it to take me further. I accepted his offer, and could not refrain from a hearty laugh, when I arrived at the Corregidor's, and found him just setting forth in quest of the only horse he possessed, which had, like mine, run away.

In my perplexity I applied to the Abbé Sanchez, and he assisted me, but upon the same condition as the Chevalier : namely, that I returned it in case of finding the truant, or being able to procure another ; to this I readily agreed, but resolved to stay the day at Arima in the hope of being able



to manage without putting the good Abbé to such inconvenience.

Arima is a rather large village, but the houses are mean in appearance, most of them being thatched cottages, little better than those of Touroure and Manzanilla ; the streets are laid out regularly, but long grass and weeds grow in profusion in them. The only good house is the curate's. The Casa Real, (royal palace) notwithstanding its regal name, is a very poor dwelling, consisting of only two small apartments meanly furnished. The stable, in a dilapidated state, is at the end of a narrow enclosure, overrun with rank grass and noxious weeds. Still Arima boasts a square and a pretty church, something similar to that at San Joseph, but the appearance of the former is marred, like the enclosure of the Casa Real, by being filled with weeds. The market, exceedingly poorly supplied, is held in the open air and in a narrow street. Many of the gardens surrounding the cottages are prettily planned, and contain good

fruit trees ; among them the avocado pear, orange, mango, and chili plum ; but in these gardens, as well as in all places about Arima, the beauty is destroyed by want of order.

Laurel Grove was my next place of resort ; when about two miles on the road thither, I perceived my truant horse fastened to a tree near a hut, in front of which were some peasants, who came towards me to claim a recompence for stopping the animal ; whilst they were speaking a man hastened up from another direction and claimed the whole merit of the detention ; this was vehemently denied by the others, and a war of words, difficult to describe, ensued, all vociferating in a jargon of broken English, bad French, and equally bad Spanish, strangely intermingled. To put an end to this confusion of tongues I gave the six disputants each a trifle, shifted saddle and bridle, sent the curate's horse back by his servant, who had accompanied me so far, and went on to Laurel Hill, situated on an eminence midway between Arima and

San Joseph, about a mile from the high road ; my newly recovered Pegasus being unwilling to turn off the road leading to his home.

From this spot is a fine, extensive view of the Tacarigua District—the intermediate, highly cultivated, level lands, and neighbouring rich estates. The sugar works, buildings, and dependencies are of the best description ; besides these there is an excellent water mill, the streamlet of which renders the whole estate fertile. In the garden, attached to the house, were two Malacca apple trees, full of beautiful, red fruit, which, though like the apple in shape, partakes more of the nature of a plum ; nutmeg trees producing an abundant supply, mango, cocoa, the bois immortel, and shining amongst all the rest the arnotta with its blossoms, leaves, and bursting pods. Besides myself, the family party, consisting of M—— and his wife, and her two brothers, was increased by the presence of the Protestant clergyman and his lady, who, however, refused to stay the night.

The next day, 26th May, at ten o'clock,

I entered the barracks at San Joseph, after an absence of seven days, during which I had travelled, in a south easterly direction across the Island, a distance of several miles, and enjoyed, notwithstanding the prognostications of my friends, fine weather.

## CHAPTER IV.

THE hospitality every where offered me, increased my wish for further rambles, and finding some gentlemen at San Joseph, who had left Port of Spain for the purpose of visiting Las Cuevas, I resolved to join them; but as it was Sunday when I came back to my head quarters, and I could not get my horse in condition to start again so soon, I let the party proceed without me, arranging to follow as soon as possible; contenting myself

meanwhile with a bath in my favorite spot and the company of my brother officers.

This ramble led me in a northerly direction from San Joseph, and through the rural and picturesque scenery of the Maraccas valley, abounding in coffee and cocoa plantations, interspersed with a variety of fruit trees, amongst which the avocado pear was the most conspicuous.

Ten streams of clear limpid water intersect this valley, which render it, during the rainy season, when they rise to a great height, and overflow the banks, rather difficult to traverse; but in the fine warm weather add greatly to the beauty of the landscape, and diffuse a most refreshing coolness through the air. I have seldom enjoyed an excursion in any country as I did the eight miles through this lovely valley.

At the end of the Maraccas, I came to the foot of the formidable mountain——which must be traversed in order to reach Las Cuevas. The ascent is toilsome and fatiguing, exceedingly difficult in many places, and

in some dangerous ; I was at times compelled to creep on hands and feet through crevices, and in others to lead my horse over precipitous heights which it appears scarcely possible for any thing but a mountain goat or chamois to climb. And when, by exercising great agility, I had ascended to the summit, to descend to Las Cuevas seemed impossible.

The mountain is covered with forest trees of gigantic height and size, the growth of ages, and so closely intertwined as to be quite impervious ; as I descended, the trees became less thick in places, and then for a few minutes what a magnificent sight was spread before me. At my feet lay the plain in all its loveliness, with the bay of Las Cuevas, and the bright sea beyond, but this lovely picture passed, and I was again involved in forest gloom, my path obstructed by fallen trunks and stumps of trees. The only track down this declivity has apparently been formed by the rush of water, which doubtless flows in torrents during the heavy

rains. Woe to the traveller down this forest mountain at such a season—but now the direction of their course showed me the path to thread, and the rivulets of sparkling brightness which crossed my route were a refreshment to my wearied senses.

At length I reached the descent, and cocoa trees appeared, and an extensive plain, appropriated to the cultivation of that produce, was before me, the commencement of the estate Las Cuevas, but no signs of human habitation; and I pursued my way through avenues of cocoa trees, shaded by the plantain and *musa paradisiaca*, the long stems of which contrasted forcibly with the rich green of the cocoa underneath, whilst, far superior to either, shone the resplendent foliage of the *bois immortel*.

All in an instant the mansion met my longing sight, and exhausted with toil, heat, and hunger, after six hours tedious ride from San Joseph, I sought its hospitable shelter. Here I found the party I had appointed to



meet, but they looked surprised at seeing me and enquired how I had contrived to get there; they had found the journey so fatiguing and difficult that they thought I should, when I saw the task before me, retrograde.

Refreshments were procured and I satisfied my intolerable hunger, and took a cup of coffee. Trinidad is the last place in which to expect to find cocoa prepared, (at the plantations). After this I adjusted my dress, and with renewed strength and spirits, again set out with the manager of the estate, a French gentleman, and one of the visitors, to visit the bay Las Cuevas, our path leading us through avenues of cocoa trees for a distance of nearly two miles.

The sea in the bay, which in form resembles a horse shoe, was remarkably smooth though usually quite the contrary, the surf beating with violence up the beach, a level sand but of no great extent. At a considerable height above the bay towers Fort

Abercrombie, said to have been constructed by order of the illustrious General whose name it bears.

Leaving our horses on the beach, we determined to ascend to the Fort, which has been many years abandoned ; by dint of great exertion, using both hands and feet, we succeeded in forcing our way through overgrown brushwood, trees, long grass, and above all the lianes or ground ivy that clings with tenacity to the feet and legs, and if you use your hands to endeavour to get free you become a still greater prisoner, and stood amongst the ruins of the fortifications.

The view over the sea is splendid, but all around tells of desolation ; in one spot lie three guns, dismounted and almost concealed amongst grass and weeds ; at another opening you gaze over a tremendous precipice which makes you involuntarily recoil as you look down ; whilst scattered around are ruins half hidden in brushwood. One of my companions observed that this was the place

where Sir Ralph Abercrombie first landed in the Island ; others, however, deny this tradition. The Fort commands the entrance to the bay, and is in a most advantageous position. The same gentleman told me that formerly the mails were landed at this bay and transported over the mountains to Port of Spain, but this is also denied and with reason, certain it is that for the last fourteen years they have been conveyed by the packet through the Bocas.

From the name of the bay I hoped to have seen caves that could be explored, but in that was greatly disappointed. Las Cuevas (the caves) are so situated in the bay as to be constantly filled with deep water, that flows in from the sea, thus being accessible only for boats and canoes, in which people enter them to catch the fish that resort there.

The French gentleman related to me an incident which occurred to his predecessor : whilst fishing near the caves he hooked a large fish of the species called grooper \*,

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\*Never having seen the word in print, or writing.

which, with irresistible force, dragged him and his boat into the cave, and would certainly have upset him, had he not loosened the line and relinquished his prey.

On descending from the Fort we re-mounted our horses and proceeded to inspect the plantation, containing thirty-eight thousand cocoa trees, shaded by the lofty Bois Immortel,\* but here I beheld with regret that half the year's produce would be lost for want of labourers.

The isolated situation of this property deters people from coming to, or residing upon it, and those of the labouring class

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the author has traced the name of this fish, according to sound, but from its broad shape, it may possibly indeed be denominated after the Spanish term, *Grupa*, in Baretti's Dictionary, (*Crupper.*)—It grows to a considerable size, and is very solid, substantial food, liked by many people.

\*The flowers of these beautiful trees are, on first bursting into blossom, of the colour of the lilac, but they gradually assume a bright crimson, which, shining amidst the green foliage, make the scenery strikingly attractive.

who are induced to engage soon weary of it, even though comfortably settled in good cottages, with gardens, and plenty of provisions. How easy would it be for an European peasantry to pursue the culture of cocoa and coffee! and surely many would find it to their advantage to go out to a colony, like Trinidad, for that purpose.

From the grounds of Las Cuevas, as well as from the bay, the mountains above appear of a stupendous height, and one feels surprised, on looking up at them, at having passed over what seem, apparently, formed by nature, as a barrier to communication between the interior of the colony and these plains, at least on the land side; for, as you gaze, it appears impossible to re-traverse them. Yet what beauty they give to the landscape! and how they elevate the mind of the traveller! how magnificent their sharp pointed peaks clothed with forests to their summits! how glowing the varied tints cast by the sun-beams upon them! and who could refrain from an exclamation of delight

at the arch formed by the meeting of the branches of trees which connect two mountains, and beneath which there is an opening. This description of arch is called La Ventana (the window). There is a solemn grandeur in such a scene the heart must feel, and I inwardly joined in the ejaculation of the poet, "Praise be to God for the mountains."

But the sublime alone did not occupy me, for I inspected the provision grounds, and made enquiries respecting the shipping of the produce for Port of Spain. Vessels of two or three hundred tons can enter the bay and most persons visiting Las Cuevas prefer going by sea in order to avoid crossing the mountains.

The next morning we formed a party of six, including the proprietor and manager of the estate, and at an early hour proceeded to retrace our path to San Joseph. The weather was fine, and with only one incident we succeeded in ascending the mountain, and now

that I had friends with me the fatigue seemed less.

We all walked, and with the exception of one led our horses, he, trusting to the animal's sagacity, allowed him to choose his own course, himself following leisurely. Suddenly the horse, who had gone too much on one side, fell down an abrupt precipice, rolling over sharp stumps of trees and thorny bushes. The poor animal, when at the bottom, groaned piteously, and then lay to all appearance dead. We gave him up as irrecoverably lost, for it seemed impossible that any *man* could descend to him. In this exigency one of the followers, an African soldier, acting upon impulse, darted, with the swiftness of the gazelle, down the declivity to the spot where the horse lay motionless, and by means of a cutlass, he carried in his hand, disentangled the animal from the branches and *lianes* that entwined him, unfastened the girths and took off the saddle, but the horse continued motionless and the weight was too much for one man to raise ; just at this time

the manager came up, and seeing what had occurred, contrived to get down to the soldier's assistance. By their joint efforts, the horse was dexterously turned over, raised, and to our amazement stood on his legs, shook himself, and proved to be uninjured.

When up the acclivity we bestowed some little praise on the soldier who had voluntarily rushed to the rescue, congratulated the owner of the horse on getting him safely restored, advising him to take better care for the future, and again went on, without stopping, till we reached the hut on the top of the mountain inhabited by a class called Peons.

A few coffee shrubs, some cassava, yams, Indian corn, plantains, &c., were growing around, but nothing in a state of maturity, owing in a great degree to the unusually long drought. Our hostess regretted she could not give us eggs with our cold ham, observing, where there was no corn there could be no eggs; nor could we obtain maize or Indian corn for the horses, but there was



plenty of grass and a spring of excellent water. Refreshed and rested, we descended the mountain, rode through the lovely Maraccas valley to San Joseph, where we arrived just in time for the Officers' mess.

## CHAPTER V.

TWENTY-NINTH May.—This morning, *a la bonne heure*, I rode forth from my head quarters to *la Réconnaissance*, distant about fourteen miles, the first part of which is on the high road to Arima; then, inclining to the left, I should have taken a path near the habitation called “The Farm,” but which path I missed and went on a considerable distance, till, suspecting my error, I applied to some Peons, one of whom offered

to become my guide. He conducted me up a steep ascent, between verdant hills, then over rocky ground, which again changed into deep ravines to descend and ascend, with alternate, small, level tracts, till we came to the summit of a lofty mountain. There, on an extensive table land, is one of the finest cocoa plantations perhaps in the universe.

Losing my way, and afterwards being obliged to conform to the foot pace of the guide, prevented my being in time for the family breakfast, but the proprietor, after the first friendly salutation, exclaimed, "You shall have breakfast though Mrs. G— must cook it," and then he went on to explain that they were without servants of any description.

The estate is isolated, so remote, no one would remain long in their service, all finding some excuse to obtain leave of absence and then never returning.

Thus the wife of the proprietor, an amiable and elegant lady, was obliged to do all the

household drudgery besides attending to her two infant children. I entreated, implored that nothing might be cooked for me, that any thing they had prepared, if only plain bread or biscuit would be quite sufficient, but both lady and gentleman were deaf to all I could say, and the former disappearing to execute her hospitable determination, the latter took me to inspect the grounds.

At Las Cuevas the luxuriant growth of the cocoa, and the scenery around is beautifully sublime if I may use such a strong expression, but at La Réconnaissance, it is enchantingly lovely, and well indeed has Mrs. Carmichael depicted its charms in her interesting narrative of the estate of which she must have had most accurate information, and which left a most vivid impression on her mind, for it is said the fair authoress was never there in person. Here the cocoa trees are planted with order and regularity far surpassing the other estates of the kind in Trinidad; and it appeared to me the only one laid out according to the theory

prescribed for the culture, the only one with the trees at a sufficient distance from each other. The vast, level plain on which they are planted is surprising in its extent when we consider the height of the mountain, but more amazing is it to contemplate the infinitely loftier, green mountains, by which it is surrounded, and which, lovely as they appear, seem placed there by nature to shade and protect the, comparatively speaking, still lovelier valley of *La Réconnaissance*—most appropriately was it so named by General Lopinot, the founder.

At this period the trees were full of fine fruit, the greater part of which, the proprietor said, would be lost, as he laboured under the same difficulties as the proprietor of Las Cuevas: viz. want of labourers; very few of whom can be prevailed on, since the Emancipation of the apprentices, 1st August 1838, to assist in gathering the cocoa, for any wages or recompense that can be offered, much less will they lend a hand in clearing the weeds and long grass

which rise to a sad height under the trees. The possessor had fortunately engaged two mowers from Scotland, who were at work under the shade of the trees this morning, and much good did they effect; but to cause a radical clearance a much greater number is required. On several of the bois immortel trees, shading the cocoa, Vanilla plants were entwined like ivy, adding greatly to their beauty, while some fine arnotta shrubs in full bearing gave a still greater brilliancy to the scene.

About six or seven years since a part of this estate was appropriated, by a former proprietor, to the culture of arnotta, which he manufactured and exported; but although it formed a very beautiful crimson or scarlet dye, it did not realise sufficient to defray the attendant expenses, consequently the present possessor had the trees rooted up, only retaining a few for ornament.

The house is, in every respect, conformable to its situation, and surrounded by a variety of fruit trees, &c. In a sequestered spot,

ornamented with shrubs and flowers, repose the remains of General and Madame Lopinot, the first possessors, first discoverers and first founders of the estate. After enjoying my breakfast and some of my favorite beverage, cocoa, I proceeded to the granary or store to look at a part of the year's crop which had been gathered ; some was in a fit state for use, and some on trays drying in the sun.

Cocoa, to be drank in perfection, should be taken when fresh, and should be prepared from new grains, the reverse of coffee, the grains of which improve with age ; and could it be easily procured in that state there would be a great demand, so superior would it be to that generally used, and so excellent would the chocolate be made from it. Its qualities are so nutritious that it would serve the poor instead of animal food, which they can seldom procure ; and as it would be good during the winter season, throughout Europe it would serve as a substitute for

the wretched beverage millions take under the denomination of tea.

Having passed a few hours, that glided only too rapidly away, at this interesting abode, and refusing the solicitations of my kind host and hostess to prolong my stay, *malgré le manque des domestiques*, at least to dinner, I re-mounted my horse and called my guide, who had also partaken largely of the good cheer of *La Réconnaissance*, and returned to the barracks at San Joseph, hastened to get a dive in the river, after which I had just time to make *un peu de toilette*, when my good friend Mr. J—— called by appointment, and conveyed me in a gig to his house at Laurel Hill, where I passed the remainder of the day, and at night reposed in the same apartment as on the 25th instant.



## CHAPTER VI.

30TH MAY.—From Laurel Hill I, very early, accompanied Messieurs J—— and O—— first to the estate Pampeluna, thence, after breakfast, being joined by Mr. M——, proceeded to the Caroni, crossed that river in a boat, our horses swimming free without being led, and then re-mounting we traversed the grand Savannah to Shirwan or Chagua-

nas,\* called at the estates of Saint Lucia and Felicity, and at another, the name of which I neglected to note down and have forgotten, and took up our abode for the night at Edinburgh, situated at nearly the farthest extremity of the district or quarter.

The distance from Laurel Hill by the above mentioned route to the Edinburgh estate is estimated at thirty miles. From Laurel Hill to San Joseph (six miles) there was a good carriage road, thence, to Pampeluna, it degenerated into only a tolerably good bridle path, getting worse as we approached the river, and still worse as we advanced upon the Grand Savannah, a plain of ten miles in length and the same in breadth, with groves of trees, bamboos, and long bulrushes interspersed. In some parts are springs, running streams, and small lakes, if I may use such a term, speaking of what

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\* That quarter is known by both or either of these names.

are in reality nothing but mere ponds ; and many parts are complete swamps. Viewed from an eminence this plain appears perfectly level, but passing over it the traveller finds, in many places, large holes, deep ruts, crevices, and small mounds or hillocks, with scarcely sufficient space between them for the foot of a horse, and it requires the assistance of animals well accustomed to the nature of the ground to traverse it in safety.

Droves of horned cattle are seen grazing on the rich pasture of the more favored parts of the Savannah ; these are considered wild, but were formerly tame, or at least tame herds were originally placed there and allowed to roam at large. Some persons assert that even now the cattle are private property, though difficult for the owners to recognise. Sometimes these animals are hunted by persons whether or not they have contributed to their number, and when this occurs they are driven or allured into fences purposely erected in various parts of the

Savannah, and when a number are inclosed persons making any claim repair thither to ascertain their own, which they do by some mark on such as have been sent to graze in recent years. Many are caught simply by means of a lasso, a sort of noose attached to a long rope ; but this and other modes of hunting is attended with great danger, as the animals often get furious and turn upon their pursuers.

A dog in the possession of a resident near San Joseph has frequently assisted in securing some of the fiercest of these cattle, when the lasso has been successfully thrown round the neck of the animal, by seizing the rope in his mouth and twisting it round the trunk of a tree, notwithstanding the efforts of the infuriated beast to destroy him. A gentleman who had attended one of these hunting parties assured me that he saw this dog hold, by the rope, a large, wild bull which had been lassoed, but which had escaped from the huntsman who threw the lasso—that till it could be secured the dog held on with aston-

ishing courage, dexterously evading every attempt of the bull to gore or trample on him. This contest lasted for a considerable time but the dog continued his grasp till the animal was well secured. This proof of tenacity in one of the canine race occurred on an open part of the plain, destitute of trees. The dog is of the blood hound species, the size only of a small bull-dog, and perfectly tame and gentle in all other respects.

I believe Chaguanas is esteemed one of the most fertile districts in Trinidad, and has a good carriage road throughout (good at least in the dry season) and its level lands are thickly planted with sugar canes.

A few months previous to my visit this year, 1839, a fire broke out and destroyed many acres of the canes, and occasioned almost ruinous loss to the owners. The Edinburgh estate, which is of considerable value, narrowly escaped this conflagration. I heard, here, less complaint of the conduct of the labourers than in any other place I had visited since the Emancipation.

Next day we all retraced our steps through the district of Chaguanas, over the grand Savannah and across the Caroni river ; at Pampeluna we parted, I staying there to breakfast, whilst the other gentlemen sought their homes. Pampeluna is *one* of many fine landed properties in Trinidad, certain to prosper so long as agricultural laborers can be procured to cultivate its rich, productive soil. Spacious buildings, containing machinery and every thing requisite for the better manufacturing of sugar, have recently been constructed at an immense expense, and if workmen do not fail wealth may be expected.

How greatly superior are the advantages of the poor here, with their liberal wages, comfortable cottages, provision grounds, climate, &c. to those of the corresponding working classes throughout Europe !

Breakfast ended, I bade adieu to M. M—, returned to San Joseph, which I could not leave without a plunge into the river at my usual spot, and proceeded to Port of Spain,

having travelled a distance of forty miles from Shirwan or Chaguanas.

One of the greatest beauties of Port of Spain is the superb trees dispersed in the different parts of the city, particularly those in Brunswick Square, opposite the Protestant Church, planted under the direction of Sir Ralph Woodford, and those in Marine Square, attached to the Catholic Cathedral. They had attained great height, and many of them were full of beautiful blossoms, though only a few years since, comparatively speaking, mere slips brought from the Carraccas. In various streets fruit trees and shrubs attract attention, and the enclosure of the Wesleyan Chapel is adorned by a splendid arnotta.

Should inclination lead you to visit any of the vessels in the harbour, or any of the ports in the bay, boats are always ready at a moderate fixed price to transport you and your luggage; attendants can always be hired for the day, but no gigs or horses can be procured. In this particular, this city is inferior to the Cape of Good Hope, or Cape

Town : nor can baths be found as at Martinique, and St. Pierre. The chief places in the Gulf of Paria that a traveller can visit from Port of Spain are Chaïaehaere, Isla de Monos, Gasparillo and Chaguaramas, Point Gourd and Carenage, Point Cumana and Cocorite, The landing Place at Caroni, Chaguanas, Barancon and Cascajal, Conva Canal, Savonetta, Point à Pierre, Oropouche, San Fernando, Point la Brea. To many of these, the steam vessel Paria offers the best facility, excepting that passengers are then limited to time.

On the second of June, I accompanied a friend in his chaise on a visit to St. James's and Government House St. Ann's. In the extensive gardens of the latter, repose the mortal remains of the late Sir George and Lady Hill, the spot only indicated by two mounds of earth, close to each other.

The author of "Truths from the West Indies," has dwelt much on faults he attributes to Sir George Hill, faults, according to his narrative, of a most serious nature ; but he



is silent respecting the charities of Lady Hill, whose unceasing efforts and devotion in forwarding the benign views of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, over which she presided, are well known and appreciated throughout the colony. That most laudable institution was likewise zealously patronised by Sir George, who, whatever ill-judged actions he may have committed, was certainly not deficient in the redeeming quality of *charity*. Why the remains of both lie so unadorned, I am at a loss to conjecture, for it is asserted that a large sum was subscribed for a monument to the memory of Lady Hill, previously to the death of her husband.

On the fourth of June, I rode with Lieut. M——, to the signal post at Fort George, and was agreeably surprised to find the road considerably improved, and the direction of it turned so as to avoid crossing the ravine, over which formerly stood a bridge, but there now only remained ruins sufficient to mark its site, and form a somewhat picturesque object in the landscape.

Ascending to the Fort we passed many of those singular trees, called the silk mahot, and on both sides of our path were huts, with provision grounds attached to them. The view from the summit over the town towards the gulf was beautiful, and animated, embracing all Port of Spain, the shipping, the Coast of Cumana, of Naparima, Morne Tamana, the Northern Bocas, the Islets, the North Post, Cocorite, and the Barracks of Saint James'; these last named being immediately under the Fort which towers majestically over them. But what a contrast was offered by the valley of Diego Martin, the estates looked abandoned, and the luxuriant cocoa, coffee, and sugar, which formerly gave so much beauty to the landscape, were no longer seen; long brush-wood had taken their place, and every thing wore a neglected aspect. The block house is fast falling to decay, and looks as if the first storm or severe gale would blow it down.

Mr. Montgomery Martin says in his work,

that Fort George is not commanded by any hill in its neighbourhood ; but he has been certainly misinformed, for heights within range of cannon-shot and one even of musketry rise above it. This last was considered inaccessible till one morning early a commanding officer of a Rifle regiment, who was of a different opinion, marched his corps towards and succeeded in attaining the topmost height, and then opened a fire of blank cartridge. The General Officer, administering the government and commanding the military force at Trinidad, was at Fort George with his staff that morning and was greatly surprised to hear firing and see smoke issuing (without perceiving the troops which were concealed by the trees) from a place, it was supposed impossible for any human being to escalate. Whatever may have been the case formerly, there is no appearance *now* of batteries rising in succession from the gulf shores to the barracks of the Fort, as related by the same author, who also remarks " This Fort commands the entrance to Diego Martin's

valley," whereas it is too elevated, too distant for that essential object which is far better, and fully accomplished, by a masked battery of four guns, recently erected on a small eminence just above the road beyond Cocorite, where the pass into the valley commences. Descending from the Fort we were sprinkled by a heavy shower, but it lasted only a short time, cooled the air, and greatly refreshed us.

## CHAPTER VII.

THE next two days I remained quietly in the city ; but on the seventh of June, I again set off on an excursion to Streatham Lodge and Laurel Hill, calling at the barracks at San Joseph on my way. Considering that a turnpike is established, and at rather a high rate for vehicles and horses, the road leading to the above named places is not kept in the order that might be expected, it was in a better state without the turnpike.

8th June. I set out early with Lieutenant M— for the North Post, passing St. James's barracks, through Cocorite, and the valley of Diego Martin, which, on first entering, appeared in a worse state than when viewed from Fort George, but it improved as we advanced ; some fine estates remaining to show by their fertility and beauty what the whole must have appeared before neglect had cast a shade over its loveliness.

Before ascending to the Post we breakfasted at the estate called the Cascade, and were thus the better enabled to encounter the somewhat steep though not long ascent. The North signal staff is immediately over the sea shore, and commands a view, on a clear day, of the Islands of Tobago and Grenada, and of vessels sailing outside the Bocas. Its situation renders the air much cooler than it is within the gulf, which is in a great degree deprived of the sea breezes by lofty mountains that only leave a clear space at the Bocas, formed on the north side by three islets with the Main Land, and called Boca de Monas, Ape's Mouth, Boca de

Huevas, Egg's Mouth, Boca de Navios, Ship's Mouth. The sea from this islet to the shore of South America form the Boca Grand, Great Mouth. Whales are caught near the entrances of the gulf, and some whale fisheries are established at the Boca de Monos and Boca de Huevas. Between the four Bocas collectively called the Dragon's Mouth and Cocorite are situated the five isles or small islets.

Communication of the appearance of vessels is made by telegraph to Fort George where it is repeated. This was rather a hazy morning, and we were disappointed of a large extent of view, but looking down the valley and up to Fort George was pleasing; the neglect was not so apparent in the distance and we only enjoyed the sight of well tilled fields and luxuriant woods. In 1825 there were several unoccupied buildings in the Fort that had formerly accommodated a number of troops, but now there was only a non-commissioned officer's party of 1st West India Regiment, in a block house, charged with the care of a vast quantity of

gunpowder and ordnance stores. Cocorite, at the base of the Fort, has a wharf and good landing place, ordnance buildings and stores.

Descending from the Post we called at the nearest estate (River) consisting of rich, level, sugar-cane fields, and extensive pasture lands, well enclosed and well watered ; never failing rivulets intersecting and pouring their beneficial supplies over the fertile soil. A former proprietor of this estate brought a number of labourers from Ireland, gave them neat, comfortable cottages, liberal wages and other advantages, including a certain proportion of good malt liquor daily. For a long time they were perfectly contented and happy, worked well, were very sober, and consequently healthy. But at length the rum distillery was too great a temptation, they became addicted to that deadly liquid, *new* rum, lost their health, and died gradually, not one, according to report, surviving.

Had the proprietor dispensed with the distillation of rum these men might, perhaps,



have lived to demonstrate that the hardy peasants of Europe could, with precaution, and abstaining from pernicious liquors, endure the work required in the West Indies, even for the cultivation of sugar. Problematical as that point yet remains there can be no doubt as to that of cocoa and coffee, which may be safely cultivated by persons from any part of the globe.

After enjoying a cool, refreshing beverage we left the River estate and returned to the Cascade, where we partook of an excellent repast, and then went on our way to Port of Spain, to inspect the Four Gun Battery, commanding the pass of Diego Martin's valley ; and which had been constructed pursuant to the report and recommendation of a commission of engineer officers, who examined the position with reference to Fort George. We inspected it for our own gratification and found it in excellent order.

On the ninth of June, at an early hour, I set out from Port of Spain alone, across the Savannah, in front of Government House St.

Ann's, and turning to the left passed on to the Rookery, then proceeding to the right, and leaving the opposite estate, belonging to M. Bosier, to the left, gained the valley of Maraval.

Water is beautiful in any landscape, but (perhaps it is owing to the heat of the climate) that to me it always looks clearer, brighter, and more refreshing in the West Indies than in any other place ; certainly the valley of Maraval is indebted for much of its beauty to the limpid streams by which it is intersected, which sparkle with the sunbeams, reflect the bright green of the cocoa trees, fertilise the sugar plantations, and bear mute testimony of what the numerous waste, uncultivated lands, which are seen around, might produce if any spirited adventurer would undertake the labour.

Like all my rides through the interior of Trinidad this was interesting, and I continued my course till I came to the Mocha estate ; then, inclining to the right, I arrived at the mountain El Sillo, the Saddle, this I

traversed slowly, for though not very lofty, it is steep and craggy and the path too narrow to admit of more than one person.

On the summit I halted to contemplate the scenery developed in the pretty view of Mocha on the one side, and the cultivated plains on the other. Descending, I entered the valley Santa Cruz, containing many beautiful cocoa plantations prettily interspersed with those of coffee and a variety of fruit trees.

The principal estates are, San Antonio, La Pastora, and La Sagesse; the former, remarkable for the fine arrangement of the trees, and the great taste displayed in the gardens and buildings. The proprietor, who has recently established this plantation, resides there with his family, and notwithstanding the pressure of the times, is constantly devising new improvements.

I had read Mr. Coleridge's description of La Pastora, but alas! the beauties he describes are all vanished, delapidated buildings only attest its former consequence; let us, however, hope it may soon be restored to

pristine loveliness ; and this would be an easy task ; for cocoa trees almost unrivalled, fertilising streams, fruit trees, shrubs and flowers, yet remain and vegetate as a luxuriant wilderness.

From the desolation of La Pastora, I passed to the cocoa trees and shrubs of coffee, laden with their nutritive produce, shaded by avocado pear and bois immortal trees, flourishing on the estate La Sagesse, all these plantations with others possessing, if not in an equal degree, similar advantages render a ride through the valleys of Maraval and Santa Cruz most attractive.

Leaving the village of San Juan to the left, I returned by the high road to Port of Spain, having made a circuit of twenty miles. After a short rest I accompanied a friend on visits to the Government House, St. James', &c.

The next day I took leave of all my friends, and on the eleventh, about ten o'clock, went on board the Seagull, amidst very heavy rain, which continued with but

little intermission till between two and three, when the vessel sailed from Port of Spain, for Grenada, where we arrived the following day.

Of Grenada, and my wanderings through it, I shall say nothing at present; I must still linger in the *Indian Paradise*, and I sincerely hope my readers are not too tired of cocoa and coffee plantations to follow my further course, for I have many places yet to describe, many things yet to bring into notice.

## CHAPTER VIII.

It was Good Friday, the ninth of April, 1841, that I again landed at Port of Spain, and after spending several days in riding and walking about its environs, visiting friends, &c., on the seventeenth I retraced the valley of Maraval, and the Sillo mountain, to take another look at San Antonio.

In 1839, I had been particularly pleased with this place, which now presented new beauties. A profusion of sweet scented roses

were luxuriating in front of the dwelling house—the gardens, plantations, and trees all gave evidence of improvement, and in the interior of the dwelling-house the same elegance was visible, all bearing testimony of the taste of the proprietors Mr. and Mrs. Portel.

La Pastora also looked to be rising into fresh beauty from the ruins of its former fertility; a number of coffee shrubs had been planted since my last visit, and were bearing plentifully, as those small trees generally do, in about eighteen months or two years, when planted from slips, and in a good soil. Mr. Gomez, junior, who fortunately happened to have called at La Pastora this day, conducted me into a cave on the estate; but beyond innumerable swarms of bats, I saw nothing to interest. Rain was falling at intervals, so I returned to the city.

On the twenty-third dined with the governor, and on the twenty-fourth rode to San Joseph, in order to visit the waterfall the following day.

As much rain had fallen during the night and early in the morning, I anticipated seeing the fall in all its grandeur. The road to this romantic spot from San Joseph, leads through part of the Maraccas valley, then, turning to the right and crossing some cocoa plantations, you enter a forest where the path is, at intervals, encumbered by trunks and stumps of trees, brushwood, and long grass, that can only be traversed on foot, and occasionally the use of both hands and feet is required.

It is to be regretted that the ground from the plantation to the base of the cataract is not cleared sufficiently to allow travellers more easily to visit that beautiful object. This might easily be accomplished, as a good path could be made from the turning towards the wood up to the river at the base of the fall.

On emerging from the wood you enter upon a level, verdant space interspersed with rocks; the aspect of all around is wild, and singularly beautiful, whilst from the peak



of a cataract, a perpendicular height of three hundred feet, dashes the immense sheet of water, foaming and splashing into the river at its base, and then, dividing into different streams, glide through the surrounding forest, again to be united when they reach the ocean.

I had set out on this expedition full of anticipation, and the roar of the rushing water, heard at a distance, increased my desire to reach the spot, where, I felt assured, no disappointment awaited me, but I was not prepared for the reality. The gloom of the forest and the roar of the descending water ; the rocks and wildness of the scene were as awfully grand as I had expected ; but the verdant space, the limpid river, upon which the sun-beams shone tinging the spray, which rose in feathery waves from the force of the falling stream, with all the colors of the rainbow ; the beautiful birds that disported around ; and even the flowers that spread their rich colors to the gazer's eye, added a soothing charm I had little dreamed

of. I visited this spot a second time on the ninth of May, and received fresh delight, from the power of the water having been augmented by the rain.

The latter part of that day I returned to San Joseph, and the next morning proceeded to Arima, to go over again most part of the tour I had taken in 1839 : first to Touroure then to Guampo, where I took cocoa with the Chevalier de Verteuil, and coffee with his opposite neighbour, the Baron Boehmler, returned to Touroure for the night, and the next day crossed all the frightful looking ravines and the dangerous bridges to Manzanilla ; rested the night and went to Nariva to breakfast the following morning ; crossed the river Ortoire in company with two gentlemen, and arrived at Beau Sejour about five o'clock.

One of the gentlemen I had met at the river Ortoire, was the Abbé Duffy, Catholic clergyman of the Mayaro district, and on separating we appointed to meet again next day and make an excursion to Guayaguayre

together ; accordingly I left Beau Sejour very early, and rode about two miles along the sea shore to his residence. On alighting, the Abbé informed me he was compelled to detain me a short time till a horse came for him, as his own had died suddenly the previous day. To beguile the time he showed me his chapel adjoining his cottage and gave me a good breakfast, after which we set out for Guayaguayre, but in consequence of our delay the tide had risen to a height that rendered it very unpleasant from the depth of the sand, and dangerous on account of a high bank, whence masses or heavy fragments are apt to fall, and under which we were compelled to pass. Slowly we rode our horses sinking deep in the sand with every step, till we got abreast of Point Galeota, when we thought it best to return and wait till low tide next day.

In returning, the Abbé took me to see the habitations of some of his parishioners, who are coloured persons speaking the French language, and generally termed *Creoles*

*Françaises.* Their dwelling, were comfortable, consisting of cottages thatched with Carrat or Timate, they had good kitchen gardens with a small space for the growth of flowers, grounds planted with Indian corn, guinea grass, and just sufficient sugar canes to make syrup for their use instead of sugar, added to which most of them had a small number of coffee trees for their home supply. These, with a *Basse Cour*, a cow or two, a few pigs and pigeons, a stable of one or two stalls, for mules or Creole ponies, constituted their farms; in addition to the cocoa nut trees, on which they principally depend for the value of the oil they all prepare for sale.

In these *petits emplacements* we saw only women and children, the men, as they told us, being *à la chasse*, that is, they were out fishing or shooting, which is their usual employment, leaving the women to attend to all the concerns at home.

The Abbé appeared to hold a high place in the estimation of these good people, who

shewed their delight at our visit by paying us every hospitable attention ; one lady, Madame Hypolite, placed before us a most excellent repast, prepared whilst we were viewing the locality, of which we were obliged to partake, or, as the Abbé said, grieve our hostess. This we could not do, so we feasted to her heart's content, and then re-mounted our horses, which had also fared sumptuously, and returned along the beach to the Abbé's dwelling, where we parted, but to meet again the following morning, and I proceeded to Beau Sejour.

The next morning, first of May, pursuant to my agreement with the Abbé Duffy, I rose before dawn, intending to proceed to his residence, but a heavy shower detained me, which, however, could not be regretted, so much the sparkling drops it left upon the foliage, and which glittered in the rising sun, enhanced the beauty of the morning ride.

I found my friend ready and we commenced our journey along the beach, as on the previous day, for a short distance, and then,

turning off the road, we stopped for refreshment at the house of an English family. Cocoa nut and bread furnished our morning's meal, for it was yet too early for breakfast, and we were obliged to refuse the invitation to wait, on account of the tide, which had so disappointed us the previous day.

Now we were fortunate, our path was on fine, hard sand, near the sea, and we rounded Point Galeota, then, inclining to the right inland, our way led through a wood two miles in extent, emerging from which, we came in sight of the beautiful bay of Guayaguayare, in its horse-shoe form, resembling that of Las Cuevas. On a gentle eminence over the beach, were a number of neat looking cottages with gardens and lands planted with coffee, rice, maize, cassava, yams, tanners, sweet potatoes, bananas, bread fruit, plantains, sappodillos, mangos, mammee apple and other fruits ; some sugar canes, and abundance of cocoa nut trees.

After we had alighted, the abbé conducted me to several cottages in which, as usual, we

found only women and children who were all most cordial in their greetings, and earnest in their offers of refreshment. We could not oblige every one of these good ladies, and I was very glad to leave such a delicate affair in the hands of my companion, who managed whilst selecting a *chaumiére*, which, from the beauty of its situation, offered attraction sufficient to have detained me much longer than a day, not to displease any of the fair aspirants to the pleasure of entertaining us. Our hostess, Madame Solide, like Madame Hypolite, the preceding day, thought nothing sufficiently good for us. Wishing to allow her time, to put her hospitable intentions into practice, we placed our horses in the stable and then wandered to the shore. The bay of Guayaguayare is formed, by Point Galeota on one side, and very sharp, steep rocks on the other, which separate it from Marouga, and in that direction impede all communication by land. Being so well sheltered, the sea is always smooth and calm, forming a striking contrast to the other side of Point

Galeota, where the foaming surf is thrown to a great height by the agitated waves.

The woods round Guayaguayare are inhabited by every species of game peculiar to the West Indies, besides quanks, laps, powees, armadilloes, agootees and ramiers. At a farther distance, in the forests, these, and birds, are more abundant, and the hunting them furnishes constant amusement, employment, and food, to the male part of the population ; almost all of whom were engaged in that pastime, this day ; whilst the bay gives them various kinds of fish. Rocks, cultivated land, thick woods, and the ever changing ocean, always form a beautiful landscape ; and here, in a thatched cottage, with the bright sun shedding cheerfulness over all, and attended by our smiling hostess, we enjoyed a few hours of delightful relaxation from the daily business of life.

On the road along the beach from the bay to Beau Sejour, which is very pleasant at low water, you catch a view of two rocks rather remarkable in form ; that at Point



Galeota resembles a large boat, and that on the side of Guayaguayare appears like a sloop in full sail. On emerging from a wood which must be traversed, and turning inland, a river is crossed, that circles into the interior, and is said to yield at times great numbers of oysters.

On the beach of the Mayaro district are myriads of the empty bladder fish, called by some the Portuguese man-of-war, but known to most persons as the nautilus.

On the second of May, though it looked as if we should have a great deal of rain, I accompanied M. Scheult on a visit to Mr. De Verteuil, and thence to the neighbouring plantation of Lagondoux, passed some time in seeing all that was worthy of observation, and at low tide rode back along the shore to Beau Sejour. A little before sunset I strolled to the river Ortoire and an adjoining estate called Plaisance, returned to my friends, enjoyed a good night's rest, and about seven o'clock on the third of May said farewell to my kind entertainers, and rode, via the Mayaro

and Malgrè Tout estates, to the Octoire, crossed that river in the same manner as on a previous occasion, and continued my course along the shore to Nariva, traversed the ford with facility, as the sea came scarcely above the horse's hoofs, and reached M. Carter's a little past nine o'clock. Mr. Carter was absent, but I had a good breakfast provided for me, and my horse well attended to, after which, finding my friend was not likely to return, I recommenced my journey, not stopping again till I came to the cottage hotel at Manzanilla, where I rested comfortably the remainder of the day.

The morning of the eighth of May was ushered in with rain, and I felt almost inclined to remain in my comfortable quarters ; but clearing up about eight I mounted my horse and rode to the river La Branch, which I forded. After crossing this river, my path being impeded by rocks, I was obliged to dismount and scramble over them as I best could ; no pleasant method of travelling, particularly after heavy rain, and I hope all

admirers of the picturesque will forgive me for seeing no beauty in rocks that compelled me to have recourse to my hands and feet instead of taking it easily on horseback. However, when safe on the other side, all disasters avoided, and remounted, I turned and owned, notwithstanding my disgust when difficulties had to be encountered, that there was a charm in the wildness around me.

Such is generally the case in this life, no sooner are dangers past than we consider them as trifles : and those spots which before appeared so dark become illumined by rays of light from our own imaginations ; so it was with me, I had looked on the rocks whilst they impeded my progress with dread, but no sooner were they crossed than I could discover many beauties ; and as I ascended to Manzanilla enjoyed the sunshine and the ride. The former lasted but a short time, for ere I had alighted at the Mico school and received the kind welcomes of M. Sorzano, the magistrate of the district and teacher of the school, the rain was again falling in

torrents, not clearing again, till nearly sunset, when I sallied forth with my friends to the bay, for the purpose of seeing the productions of the settlement, shipped for sale to Port of Spain.

A most animated scene was passing on the shore, discharged soldiers were engaged filling boats with rice, yams, cocoa, indian corn, and the other articles grown in the district ; women, and children, all were busy, all wore a smiling, healthy appearance, and all, no doubt, anticipating a golden return, for the ventures they were consigning to the sloop, anchored in the bay, to receive them.

A great improvement has taken place in the habits of these African settlers ; they are becoming more industrious, more cleanly, and the rice and yams cultivated by them, was this year of superior quality. Certainly they have every inducement to labour, possessing excellent lands, almost without limit, gratis, no house rent, no taxes, and their goods sent for them to a place of sale ; as at stated periods, government sends a vessel to transport

their produce to the capital, where, it finds a ready market.

Could such favors possibly be bestowed on the peasantry of the United Kingdom, they might, if wealth can give happiness, be considered really blessed ; for an English peasantry could scarcely fail to acquire riches, if in possession of such lands as lie on the eastern side of Trinidad. Large tracts, yet unoccupied, are left, like flowers in the desert, to waste their sweetness unseen. On a previous visit to Manzanilla Point, in 1839, I had been much pleased with the mode of instruction at the Mico school, and now I lingered a day longer than I at first intended, that I might again see the method pursued by Mr. Semper, in his tuition.

He had at present only fourteen constant pupils, and these all very young, but they spoke good English, and appeared to have made surprising progress in reading, writing, &c. Their singing, with which Mr. Semper took much trouble, was excellent, and might put to

shame some of the Hullah classes in England.

These were all the children of the African soldiers, who had been discharged from the 3rd West India Regt., and were colonised in this spot, and truly thankful should they feel for such comforts as a little industry will enable them to enjoy, such a retreat from the labors of their military duty.

Many other pupils, including some adults, occasionally visit the school, but a residence at the extremity of the district precludes constant attendance. Sunday is a complete gathering day, when all assemble to hear prayers read, and join in thanksgiving to their Almighty Father. It is a beautiful sight, and often when surrounded by the pomp of the cathedral service of our Church, I turn in idea to the little congregation of the Mico school, and fancy I again hear the simple hymn of praise sung by those infantine voices.

Mr. Semper requested me to report what

had so much pleased me to the Governor, and though I could not venture upon an official representation, in a private conversation with His Excellency, I gave a sincere and hearty testimony to the good order and arrangement prevailing in the establishment.

It was almost with a feeling of regret that on the sixth I took leave of Messrs. Semper and Sorzano, whose kind attentions towards me I shall ever think on with pleasure, and rode to the cottage of Mrs. Joseph, at Morne Calabash ; as usual I saw only women employed in household work or drying grains of cocoa, clearing rice, corn, &c., whilst the men were absent on their avocations.

A good breakfast was indispensable before undertaking the ride to Touroure, a ride rendered worse at this time by the heavy rain which had lately fallen. My horse could only walk, and from the adhesive nature and thickness of the mud two of his shoes were wrenched off.

I certainly am a most unromantic traveller

for I am sure that for some tourists such a journey would have filled many pages of their note book ; the ravines, the bridges, the rivulets now swollen to rushing streams, the wildness and desolation all around would be coloured in glowing tints, whilst I felt all the uncomfortableness of my situation, regretting, at every step, that no plan was devised for improvement, almost insensible to the beauty of the trees I occasionally saw, and only really rejoiced when I alighted at the old serjeant's cottage. All my miseries were then forgotten, and I listened with wonderful complaisance to the heavy rain, which fell in torrents immediately after my arrival.

Next morning, the weather being more propitious, I started to breakfast with Baron Boehmler, at Guampo, called, *en passant*, to Arima, at the Chevalier de Verteuil's, and then hastened to San Joseph.

I was resolved to lose no time in my perambulations, so, after a night's repose, though I must own my rides of the two preceding



days had been rather fatiguing and almost tempted me to rest, I rode to the valley of Caura, hoping to pass a few pleasant hours with Colonel Prieto, the possessor of a cocoa plantation in that district, but I found my friend ill in bed, so after chatting with him for some time in his room, I took a solitary ramble and some refreshment before proceeding to El Dorado and Paradise, in the adjoining district. Mr. Hamilton, whom I wished to see, was out, but the ladies of his family entreated me in such a kind, hospitable manner to stay and dine with them that I could not resist the pleasure.

I returned to San Joseph about nine o'clock.

## CHAPTER IX.

SAN JOSEPH is certainly a very pretty little place, and the view from the barracks one of the finest in the island, extending over a country interspersed with habitations, through which the river Caroni takes its fertilising course to the sea; far away, in the distance, the eye rests upon the towering mountains, the most elevated being Morne Tamana. And surely the birds, butterflies and flowers are gayer here than in other

places, sometimes the ruby topaz lights upon the green branch of some graceful shrub, whilst amongst others the emerald, the jacomar, the sapphire, the gold-headed manakin, flutter at early morn.

“ Seeking to sip the crystal dew.”

One of the most beautiful flowers, and one which grows in great profusion, hanging its lovely blossoms, sometimes red, sometimes scarlet, saffron, or a pale salmon colour, upon every wild shrub in hedges, trees, or enclosures, is the baraguette or Barbados' pride, and to see the calibris (Humming birds\*) disporting amongst its gay blossoms in the bright sunshine is a perfect picture.

In the gardens of San Joseph and its environs is seen in its greatest perfection *Le Papillon vegetal*, which grows on a species of ivy entwined round a poplar or any other tall tree. This blossom is an exact repre-

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\* The humming bird is called calibri by the French, because, according to some of their authors, it was so named by the original inhabitants.

sentation of a living butterfly, but, unfortunately, there is no method of preserving it even for a time ; no sooner is it gathered than it withers and falls to dust.

In June 1831, after an unusually long succession of wet, the river became disturbed and the banks destroyed ; trunks of trees and large masses were whirled down with amazing rapidity by the impetuosity of the current, and the contiguous lands inundated. The owner of many acres of plantains received, on the morning of that day, an offer for the vegetables or fruits, of which the trees were full, and consented to sell them ; but advised their being left on the trees a few days longer ; in the evening there was neither tree nor plantain to be seen, all had been swept away and in their places were heaps of mud and pools of deep coloured water. This inundation took place about two months before the devastating hurricane at Barbados.

There had been so much heavy rain that I fancied the waterfall in the Maraccas

valley would be seen in perfection, accordingly, on the ninth of May, I started early in the morning, waded through the wet and mud of the wood, and was rewarded for my toil ; but I have described this spot before, therefore a recapitulation of its grandeur would be wearisome. A breakfast at San Joseph on my return—visits to Streatham Lodge and El Dorado, with a dinner at Laurel Hill, finished the day.

May 10th I left San Joseph early, and rode through the village of San Juan, which contains some few good houses and a pretty looking church, consecrated in 1832 : upon which occasion this little place presented an unusual picture of animation. The Catholic bishop of Olympus presided at the consecration, a ceremony witnessed by numbers of elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen, who afterwards, by the especial invitation of the bishop, partook of a *dejeuner*. Now, as I rode through its little street, all was as tranquil as possible, with the river gliding

slowly past the ascent upon which the village is built, another road running parallel which also leads to Port of Spain, and which I should generally prefer to the upper, as being more picturesque and shady.

May 11.—Early in the morning I rode the *tour*, which is a circular road passing by Woodbrook, the Barracks of St. James, the Rookery, and the opposite estate, M. de Boissier's, the Government House St. Ann's, and by the Grand Savannah, back into Port of Spain. One of the most interesting though most melancholy spots you visit in this tour is the Cemetery of La Perouse, situated a little way from the road between Port of Spain and Woodbrook. Many pensive thoughts arise as you gaze on the number of tombs standing in this burial ground. How many now tell the resting place of loved ones, who have been consigned to the tomb by strangers' hands, their last moments untended by loving hearts, uncheered by those smiles affection will force

even when their dearest hopes are crushed by despair.\*

But let us turn from La Perouse, and the gloomy feelings it produces to be enlivened by the brightness of Woodbrook. There, over a gateway hang the boughs of an uncommonly fine rose apple tree, so luxuriant, so inviting, no person can resist passing into the avenue to which it seems to stand as warder. A stroll under its refreshing shade, and a cup of cocoa, presented with a smile of welcome at the hospitable mansion attached to the estate, banished all gloom—and with renewed spirits I finished my day's wandering.

The town of Port of Spain is divided into five *barrios*, or districts, one comprehending

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\* La Perouse was formerly the place of interment for the troops, as well as the inhabitants, but in 1828 the Bishop of Barbados consecrated a tract of land, for a Military burying ground, near Saint James's Barracks, the Royal Regiment, then stationed there, being drawn up in review order on the solemn occasion. The late Sir Ralph Woodford, and many Gentlemen of the colony also attended that impressive ceremony.

the suburbs to the East of Dry River, Duncan Street, Nelson Street, and the east side of George Street, from the gulf to the intersection of the river St. Ann, to the north.

The second comprises the west side of George Street, Charlotte Street, Henry Street, the east side of Frederick Street ; and from the gulf to Park Street, including the south side.

The third, extends over the streets, Chacon, Abercrombie, St. Vincent, the west side of Frederick, and the east side of Edward ; from the gulf, to Park Street, and the public road of Diego Martin on the north-west.

No. four includes with the north side of Park Street, and the west side of St. Ann's road, the streets of Oxford, York, Clarence, Kent, Cumberland, Cambridge, and Sussex ; whilst the fifth *barrios* takes in the west side of Edward Street, all Richmond Street, the part, from the gulf, to the intersection of Diego Martin road ; and all the suburbs, to the west of Richmond Street.



The illustrious board of Cabildo, (Municipal Council) is composed of

The Governor President,  
First Alcalde,  
Second Alcalde,  
Eight Regidores,  
A Fiel Executor,  
Syndic Procurator General,  
An Assessor,  
Secretary and Registrar,  
A Treasurer.

Establishment of the Royal Jail, Port of Spain.

A Physician,  
An Alcalde,  
An Attorney.  
A Warder.

The Royal Jail is visited monthly, and all commitments are supervised by the Board of Magistrates, composed as follows :—

His Excellency the Governor,  
The Chief Justice,  
The Puisne Judges,  
The Attorney General,  
The Procurador Syndic,

The Police Magistrate,  
 First and Second Alcaldes,  
 Regidor on Duty,  
 Escribano of Intendant.

There are five Alcaldes de Barrio,  
 A Surveyor of the Town,  
 A Clerk of the Market,  
 A Weigh Master. } in Port of Spain.

The Government of the colony was this year,  
 (1841) composed as follows :—

A Governor,  
 A Council of three Members, including the Governor,  
 and  
 A Committee of twelve Members.\*

The Crown Officers are,  
 Colonial Secretary,  
 Chief Justice.  
 Two Puisne Judges,  
 A Registrar,  
 An Advocate,  
 Marshal of the Admiralty Court,  
 Clerk of the Council,

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\* Of recent years, the Officer of Her Majesty's  
 Troops, next in command to the Governor, is one of  
 the Members.

Treasurer,  
 Attorney General,  
 Solicitor General,  
 A Marshal,  
 Register of Deeds,  
 Collector of Customs,  
 Harbour Master,  
 Chaplain of the Forces,  
 Inspector of Health,  
 Botanist.

Law Department.

Tribunal of the Royal Audiencia,  
 Judge, H. E. the Governor,  
 An Assessor—an acting Assessor,  
 Attorney General, } Escribano  
 Solicitor Fiscal, } de Camara.

The 12th, 13th, 14th of May, I employed in Port of Spain, and many were the improvements I discovered ; I visited its markets, greatly amused with the animated scene they presented ; the pale faces of the English contrasted with the dark olive tint and flashing eyes of the Spaniard, which are in turn strangely contrasted by the yellow complexions, long, lank hair, black as the plumes of a funereal hearse, of the Indians.

After all, there is no town in the West Indies equal to this, not even the fine cities of Carraccas and Paramaribo, and were I to turn planter, like Mr. Coleridge, it should be in Trinidad I would seek my home, and there, in one of those beautiful plantations, enjoying the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics, looking up to mountains which seem to lose themselves in the blue expanse above, and clothed to their summits with trees of gigantic height, the air cooled by breezes from that most beautiful bay, I could forget the ambition of the world, and repose in peace. But, alas! the world has too many claims upon me to allow of seclusion, however inviting.

From whatever cause it may have proceeded the discontinuance of the "Ladies' Benevolent Society," is much to be lamented, its charities were widely disseminated, and so judiciously bestowed, that hundreds live to bless its supporters, who otherwise might have died in penury and sickness. There is, however, at present, little or no mendicity

in 'Trinidad, and this circumstance speaks loudly in favor of the charitable feeling predominant in the hearts of the Colonists. They ever bear in mind the words of the poet in his beautiful ode to charity.

Angel of charity who from above  
Comest to dwell a Pilgrim here,  
Thy voice is music, thy smile is love,  
And pity's soul is in thy tear.

When on the shrine of God were laid,  
First fruits of all, both good and rare,  
That ever grew in Eden's shade,  
Thine were the holiest offerings there.

Hope and her sister Faith were given,  
But as our guides to yonder sky,  
Soon as they reach the verge of Heaven  
Lost in the blaze they die.

But long as love, Almighty love,  
Shall on its throne of thrones abide,  
Thou shalt, oh! Charity, dwell above,  
Smiling for ever at His side.

15th of May I embarked at 9 o'clock, a.m. in the steam vessel Paria, to visit San Fernando, where I arrived about one o'clock. This place is in the district of Naparima, and I passed a few days in very pleasant

companionship with Dr. M. with whom, the day after my arrival, I took a short excursion in the merchant ship the *Superb*, went to breakfast with the captain, and then, joined by him and some other gentlemen, took a boat to *Plaisance*, to view the hot and cold springs. The former is situated near the sea, on low land, and flows from a bank but little above the ground, in contradistinction to that of *Grenada*, which flows from a rock on a lofty eminence. Both are of equal temperature and nearly similar in taste, and form a luxurious bath in which I indulged this morning.

Who that ever passed a night at *San Fernando* has not been aroused from their morning slumbers by the yells of the monkeys in the wood, or in the evening been startled by swarms of fire flies darting through the palm trees.

On the 17th, Doctor A—accompanied me in a ride from *San Fernando* to breakfast at *Savannah Grande*. There is no appearance of meadow or unoccupied plain, as the name

would imply ; the lands are nearly all cultivated by the American settlers established there under the administration of the late Sir Ralph Woodford. A visit to their settlement is very interesting ; their dwellings, constructed with the bamboo, and thatched with palm branches, are singular and pretty ; whilst their grounds show them to be industrious and persevering ; luxuriant crops of vegetables and fruits, including plantains, yams, sweet potatoes, tanniers, pigeon peas, cassava, and bananas, together with a few sugar canes, a little coffee and cocoa for their own use, surround their huts and display a picture of rural fertility.

## CHAPTER X.

THE next morning I left the Savannah Grande, by a tolerably good road, through a succession of hamlets inhabited by the American Settlers, for about ten or twelve miles to the entrance of a forest nearly twenty-two miles in extent.

To penetrate through that distance is toilsome and unpleasant in the extreme ; swarms of moschetos attack both man and horse, and inflict torture on both ; fallen trunks of



trees impede the progress, and in many parts there is no path or even a track to guide the traveller. Wearied and thirsty he looks in vain for a drop of water that is palatable, and on arriving at the deep ravines, or rivers, there are no fallen trees to assist him over, though in other places they have obstructed his path in every direction; and then 'midst all these disagreeables he is constantly compelled to disperse, with branches of trees, the myriads of moschetos swarming around him. The hoarse murmur of the sea is the only *cheering* sound to be heard, and that, increasing as you advance, tells of coming release; though it is not till completely tired with the intricacies of the path, stunned with the buzz, and irritated, almost beyond control, with the stings of the moschetos, that you catch the first sight of the sea as you emerge from the trees. With what a feeling of relief the dancing waves are greeted, weariness seems past, and turning to the right along the bay of Marouga the verdant, gently sloping eminence is at-

tained, on the summit of which is a pleasant dwelling, whose door is always open, and hospitable board spread for the refreshment of the tired pilgrim of the forest.

Marouga is a wild, romantic looking place, on the eastern coast, separated from Guayaguayare on one side and Erin Bay on the other, by a chain of almost inaccessible mountains which obstruct the inland view. There are but few inhabitants, but the lands, in the vicinity, are rich and render good return for anything cultivated on them; the neighbouring forests abound in the various game of the Island, whilst the sea, and river Marouga supply abundance of fish. The latter is navigable for boats some distance into the interior, and on its banks flourish mangrove trees replete with oysters, looking like fruit, upon the boughs and stems, to which they cling with surprising tenacity. The inhabitants, like those of Guayaguayare, are of French origin, and usually speak that language.

I quitted Marouga the morning after my

arrival, though I could willingly have remained much longer in its seclusion. The kindness extended to me was so great, the fare provided for me so excellent, particularly the wine, that it required some little rousing up of determination and courage to leave such comforts, again to thread that intricate forest, and wade through its three rivers, the Warrapoche, Rock, and Moroguito. However I made the journey safely, though when I arrived at the village of the American Settlers I was wet through from the rain.

The 20th of May was devoted to the Mud Volcano, the route to which led through different hamlets of the American Settlers to the entrance of a wood, not like that leading to Marouga, my good reader, though the passage through it was very narrow, and a mile and half in length. It opened at the opposite end on a small green plain, in the centre of which were six conical hillocks of moderate size, with a kind of clay coloured water bubbling from the top of each, accom-

panied by a slight murmuring, or rather hissing sound. Around these miniature volcanos the grass is covered with the clay-like mud flowing or rather ejected from them, and at a greater distance round lie stones, said to have been thrown up in eruptions such as occasionally happen, and one of which, the villagers related was, a few years since, attended with a thundering noise that threw them into consternation. The late Mr. Joseph (the bard of Trinidad) in a work published after his death, describes an eruption which he witnessed in company with some friends; I saw nothing but what I have named; I felt no unusual warmth in the ground around, nor was the substance bubbling from the hillocks more than lukewarm. Having satisfied myself respecting this natural curiosity, I returned to the Mission, calling on my road at the estate Matilda.

21st of May I left the Savannah Grande, and returned to San Fernando. Next morning, two officers of the garrison and myself,

started for a ride across the river Taruga, which intersects the road, to visit the Marabella Estate, the proprietor of which, took us in a canoe, up a small river, the St. John's, to see the Mangrove trees, like those of Marouga, bending beneath the weight of oysters. In Mr. Hawkshaw's clever little work upon South America, he gives a long and interesting account of these singular "disputers of the territory of the ocean," but he did not see them covered with oysters. The trees on the banks of this little river, and the adjoining coast of the Gulf of Paria, are of a large size and of great number. We divested some of them of a few of their branches, to furnish us food for breakfast, at the Union estate, whither, we bent our steps on disembarking from the canoe. These oysters were small, but superior in flavour to those *gathered* from the banks of the river Marouga, or found in those of Mitán and Nariva. On the beach, appertaining to the Marabella estate, there is a bed of cockles apparently inexhaustible.

The remainder of this day was spent in exploring the estates of Union Hall, Cedar Grove, and other places in South Naparima.

On Sunday morning I rode with Doctor Claridge, about four miles from San Fernando, to the estate called French, returned to attend divine service, after which, previously to dining at Union Hall, I visited Bushy Park, and Philippine.

May 24th I left San Fernando in a small boat, for Oropuche, landed at sun-set and went to Bel Air, situated about a mile from the landing place.

Next morning I took a boat to the Lagoon at Oropuche, saw more Mangrove trees and oysters, to look on which recal our memories the tale, we have listened to with such intense interest in our juvenile days, of the barnacle goose, which was formerly supposed to come from a shell about the size of a small bean.

From the Lagoon, I went to La Brea, to take a second look at the Pitch Lake, which bore a somewhat different appearance to that in 1839. The fissures were deeper (owing

to the greater quantity of rain) and had no longer planks across them. The surrounding aspect was the same, but the solitude was now enlivened by the company of women, occupied in washing clothes on the lake. About two miles from this spot, on the estate of Mon Plaisir, where I passed the night, is a well of natural pitch, or at least, a soft substance combining all the qualities, and in semblance, and utility, similar to pitch. This well, situated on a slight eminence, is round at the top and about the dimensions of a hogshead cask, the depth has never been ascertained, and although the apparent pitch has been used abundantly for all purposes to which the real is generally applied, the well is constantly full to the brim.

The following day, though the weather was intensely hot, I rode from Mon Plaisir, to Cedros ; the road took me along the beach, and a beautiful ride it was ; with the trees, the wild flowers, birds, and butterflies, and scenery of Trinidad on one side, the sea with the sparkling waves almost laving the feet

of our horses, and the opposite coast of South America on the other. But oh how beautiful appeared the rocky islets of Los Gallos, looking, as they did in the distance, like ships in full sail. I involuntarily uttered an exclamation, and enquiry to my guide, as to what vessels they could be; he with a smile of compassion at my ignorance, mentioned the names, and on a nearer approach, I found they bore some slight resemblance to that their name implies The Cocks, Los Gallos.

The picturesque Los Gallos were still lingering in my imagination, when I arose the next morning, and immediately after breakfast, I accompanied Mr. Farley to inspect them more closely, and then discovered they were only barren rocks, of a white, or light grey, colour, projecting into the sea, at Cedros Bay, a short distance from the shore. They are situated in a straight line, and separated, a few yards from each other, by the sea, into little islets.

The distance from Point Hicaccos, which I next visited, to the opposite coast of South



America, is variously stated, to me it appeared about twelve miles, some persons assert that it is only seven, whilst one or two authors state it to be three leagues.

In a multitude of counsellors there may be wisdom, but in a variety of opinions who can decide which is the true one! At Point Hicaccos I saw the entrance to the Parian Gulf, called the "Serpent's Mouth," with the islet of "The Soldier's Rock." This last appears midway between the two coasts, and derives its name, some say, from a vessel filled with soldiers being wrecked there; others maintain it is so called from the myriads of birds, with red and blue plumage, that resort thither.

On the Columbia estate, which I visited with Mr. Farley on the 28th of May, are mud volcanos, of a similar nature to those I had seen at Savannah Grande, on a level portion of land, each about an acre in size, and covered with hard mud, excepting some here and there, soft as when it oozed from the craters or hillocks, of which there are

from fifteen to twenty. The manager of the estate said there was generally an eruption once in the year, during the rainy season, and then a sound issued resembling the report of cannon, repeated, occasionally, for about twenty-four hours ; that during these explosions stones and different materials are thrown up covered with a metallic substance, considered curious, and often taken away as specimens.

Of a similar nature is the mud volcano on Morne Galpha, on the sea shore, which I visited the day after I saw those at Columbia ; but the crater of this, being at the top of an inaccessible height, is not visible. Mr. Rousseau never knew of any explosion, but has seen it overflow with mud, and he gave me two pieces of the kind of mineral substance thrown from it ; he added that these specimens were generally found at the foot of the Morne, at the edge, and even in the sea. I had come this day from Cedros to Erin, passing through the property Perseverance, and Envieuse, to Beaulieu, and after

inspecting the volcano continued my route to Pointe Islet, a place, my guide asserted, was only to be passed at low water, besides I had been cautioned against the quicksands. No accident befel us, and we arrived at a part of the beach where no danger was apprehended, when suddenly down we sunk up to the chests of our horses in the sand.

By dismounting and a little exertion we extricated ourselves and horses, and proceeded on without farther mishap to Carlisle estate, where I alighted by mistake, or rather from the stupidity of my guide, who took me there instead of to Chatham. Fortunately my friend was at Carlisle, so the *contretemps* served us for a laugh, and after partaking of refreshment and returning my horse, with thanks to Mr. Farley by the guide, I walked about a mile and half to my destination.

On the Chatham estate, the land of which is rich and productive, tobacco had been recently planted, and was looking very flourishing; there can be no doubt of its

successful growth, as the temperature on the heights about Erin is nearly the same as that of Venezuela, and with a full complement of labourers could assuredly be rendered capable of producing whatever is grown in that territory.

This is a very secluded estate, but the house of the proprietor, standing on an eminence over Erin Bay, commands an extensive sea view.

Having explored the Savannah Grande from one end to the other. I did not like to be within six miles of that of Erin and not see which I preferred.

Our ride took us through a tract of rural country till we came to the Savannah, laying between the Caroni River and the district of Shirwan ; it is not so large in extent as the Grande Savannah, but more level. The pasture is capable of nourishing an immense number of cattle, which, for some years subsequent to 1830, were sent from Angostura. This was a great benefit to the inhabitants as the markets were then well

supplied ; but, from some unknown cause, this supply was stopped, the remaining cattle withdrawn, and the plain deserted. The late Colonel Hamilton, owner of a very extensive property in Angostura, caused a residence, and some buildings, to be constructed on the Erin Savannah, and resided there, occasionally, during the time cattle grazed on its pastures.

## CHAPTER XI.

WISHING to obtain a view of the Serpent's Mouth from the sea, I took advantage of the opportunity afforded me for doing so, and accompanied by Mr. Porter went on board the Anglesea sloop, then about to sail towards Cedros. The next morning was a perfect calm, and we anchored off Point Hicaccos : I landed with Mr. Porter, before breakfast, to stroll among the few fishermen's huts scattered about the beach. These have

quite a picturesque appearance, completely in accordance with the sublimity of the scene around ; the cocoa nut trees in front, a few little spots of cultivated land around, filled with cassava, pepper shrubs, plantains and some other vegetables, together with slices of fish hung up to dry in the sun,\* give these little dwellings a primitive look and might lead the imaginative to suppose them the habitations of the original possessors of the soil. It was early morning, and the stillness, though broken by, now and then, a canoe or boat returning from fishing, or a slight exclamation from female lips, with head peering from the entrance of a hut, to look for the expected arrival, accorded well with the scene around. It was one to make the gazer thoughtful, if not melancholy, and I felt as if I could have

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\* The fish thus dried are the Spanish mackerel, Grooper, and King Fish ; this process has the same effect as smoke drying, and is termed *boucané*. The fish thus dried is palatable, but, like the English salt herrings, causes great thirst.

seated myself on the sand and indulged in a dreamy forgetfulness of the bustle of the world beyond. But a light breeze sprung up, and gently filling the sails of our sloop, reminded us of the breakfast awaiting us on board, and the captain's anxiety to weigh anchor.

We sailed slowly past Cedros, and the rocks of Los Gallos, directly through the Serpent's Mouth, three leagues wide, and sometimes designated eastern mouth of Orinoco. Trinidad is only separated from the continent of America, by the breadth of the Serpent's Mouth ; being 94 miles south by east from Grenada ; 328 miles east from La Guayra, near the confluence of the Orinoco. The Gulf of Paria, is thirty marine miles in length, and fifteen wide in the broadest part ; and is formed by the western shore of the island, and the opposite coast of Cumana. Perhaps here it may be as well to mention, that the whole island, comprises an extent of 45 miles from north to south ; and 60 from east to west. I remember one very stormy day sailing from London to Dover, when so



much was said about the North Foreland, that I felt almost inclined to do, as almost all the other passengers did, viz. land at Margate, to avoid the tossing of which I certainly had had sufficient that day at least. But the Captain laughed at my fears and made some remark in a *sotto voce* voice, about fair-weather sailors, and land lubbers, which determined me to proceed, and most assuredly I saw no danger at the Foreland. Recalling this, I set at naught all the tales I had heard, and passed safely through the very jaws of the Serpent, seeing no danger, and wondering why it is so called, for it certainly bears no resemblance to a mouth of any kind ; and the passage is very unlike that at Northern Bocas, or Dragon's Mouth. Slowly we coasted down the gulf towards La Brea, our proximity allowing me to catch every now and then a glimpse, between the trees, of the borders of the Pitch Lake, nearest the sea, whilst at intervals were large fragments of the bitumen, lying close to sea. We landed off La Brea, and walked to the

village ; I had a visit to pay at Mon Plaisir and a curiosity to see the Lake after the heavy rain that had fallen, but beyond the coolness of the surface, and the fissures being filled to overflowing with water, which tasted quite fresh, there was nothing worth naming.

On the 3rd of June I quitted La Brea, before day-break, in an open boat for San Fernando, where I landed wet through, from the heavy rain that had fallen in torrents, nearly filling our frail barque. The hotel on the wharf at San Fernando, affords excellent accommodation, and is conveniently situated for travellers, whether arriving or departing. This little town is fast improving, and the population is said to have trebled from the time of the emancipation to the year 1843. When I quitted it the Protestant Church was nearly completed, and a Catholic one, on an extensive scale, in progress. An excellent barrack for a company had been erected, and every thing looked prosperous, whilst the salubrity of the air

throughout the district of Naparima, together with every advantage of scenery, renders it desirable as a residence.

The 5th of June I visited Taruba in North Naparima, one of the few plantations that have improved since the Emancipation. The lands are very extensive, lying between San Fernando and the American Mission, a little off the high road, near the river Taruba; which, being navigable for boats, to a certain distance, is of incalculable benefit to the plantation. From Taruba I went to the Cedar Grove estate, thence to Bushy Park, and did not reach my hotel till night.

June 6th.—I breakfasted with Mr. and Mrs. Philip at Bushy Park, and in the evening joined a gay party at Doctor Mickelham's. The Doctor's residence is one of the prettiest in the neighbourhood, standing on an eminence commanding a fine view of the town, the gulf and the coast about Pointe à Pierre, and a part of South Naparima.

At the commencement of the road leading

to North Naparima, stands one of the three turnpikes in the island, another is at the entrance of Port of Spain, opening on the road to San Juan, and the third on the Tacarigua road, leading towards Arima.

I was indebted to Doctor Mickleham for a great deal of polite and kind attention ; he shewed me large quantities of the natural pitch in his vicinity, and some masses of a solid substance formed from the bitumen of the Lake, mixed with other material, which he intended to use in roofing buildings. There could be little doubt of its utility, as a similar admixture succeeded for pavement to the court yard of the College in Port of Spain.

After taking a farewell repast at the Doctor's, I went on board my old friend the Paria, and arrived at Port of Spain in the evening, having been absent three weeks.

June 7th.—Frequently as I had seen the beautiful garden at St. Ann's it never seemed to me so delightful as on this morning, as I

walked through it with Mr. Lockhart, the Government Botanist. The Governor, upon my requesting permission to see the garden, requested Mr. Lockhart to shew me everything, politely expressing regret that official affairs prevented his accompanying me himself. The greatest curiosity in this garden, at least to me, are the opuntia shrubs, which produce or attract the cochineal insects. I also saw the tea shrubs looking well and thriving; and my companion expressed his conviction of the climate being favourable to the growth; but they could not be rendered useful, as no person in the colony understood the method of preparing the leaves. There are also a hundred mature nutmeg trees, and Mr. Lockhart told me one of them had yielded twenty pounds weight of fruit, being equal to the produce of the best trees in the East Indies. Slips from those I mention had been planted at Laurel Hill, and, in seven years, yielded plentifully, thus proving, that not only in Trinidad but

in the other West India Islands, this valuable spice could be successfully cultivated.

In the most woody part of the grounds I saw a locust and a mastic tree, both of great height and beauty. By means of a very long bamboo pole, Mr. Lockhart gathered a fruit from the mastic tree and presented it to me ; it was somewhat larger than a balatas plum, (if so that fruit may be called) but smaller than a sappodillo which it resembles in flavour, I thought it superior, though novelty might make me think so. I had seen many of these trees and understood they were among the most valuable, for the wood, in the forests of the transatlantic colonies, but never before heard they yielded anything like good fruit.

I could fill many pages with an account of the various flowers, fruits, and shrubs, cloves, and cinnamon trees, luxuriating in this charming spot, but were I to do so, I should perhaps tire the patience of my read-

ers as much as, I fear I did, that of my kind conductor, to whose knowledge and kind manner, I owe the pleasure I experienced on that morning.

The Government House is not large, but some of the apartments are very handsome, and elegantly decorated ; the portraits of His late Majesty George the Third, and his consort Queen Charlotte, adorn the walls, as well as those of the former governors— Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Sir Thomas Picton, Sir Thomas Hislop, and Sir Ralph Woodford.

Before the Government House spread two Savannahs, divided by a row of fine trees, the larger, of sufficient extent for a strong brigade of troops to exercise upon ; and prior to the Emancipation, a Militia force, to the number of about three thousand, used to assemble there, monthly, for exercise. This custom was discontinued for a time, but resumed in 1841.

The Militia force for the entire colony consisted of the

Commander in Chief,  
His Excellency the Governor.  
Three Aides-de-camp, with the rank of Col.,  
Two Major Generals with Aides-de-camp.  
One Adjutant General.  
One Deputy Adjutant General,  
One Assistant Adjutant General,  
One Quarter Master General,  
One Deputy Quarter Master General,  
One Assistant Quarter Master General, and  
other Staff Officers.

The Corps were the

Royal Trinidad Dragoons,  
Saint Ann's Hussars,  
Royal Trinidad Artillery,  
Royal Trinidad Battalion,  
Loyal Trinidad Battalion,  
Sea Fencibles,  
Royal Invalid Corps,  
Military Artificers' Company,  
Diego Martin Corps,  
Saint Joseph's Light Cavalry,  
Saint Joseph's Rifle Corps,  
Couva and Pointe à, Pierre Battalions,  
North Naparima, and  
South Naparima Corps.



At the Exercises, and Annual Reviews, this Militia was famed for the precision and skill displayed.

Port of Spain can also boast of a race course, formed on the\* Grande Savannah in 1828, where good sport has often been witnessed ; the course is about a mile and quarter. Every one acknowledges the beauty of the ladies of Trinidad, of whom these races always attract a most brilliant display.

Sir Ralph Woodford was a great patron of the drama, and at one period, this city boasted three theatres and five companies, one professional, French, one do. English, and three amateur societies, amongst whom were many

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\* There are two places in Trinidad called "Grande Savannah," the one before Saint Ann's Government House, the other, considerably larger, between the Caroni River and the District of Shirwan, or Chaguanas ; and there is also a Savannah Grande, situated on the Naparima Side—the names of those Savannah, being so similar are apt to embarrass, or be confounded by, those who are not well acquainted with their different situations.

gentlemen of talent. One, the late Mr. Joseph, called the Bard of Trinidad, produced, in a very short period, three plays, in which he acted with great applause. At their first representation he spoke the following prologue

Like some great city from a village grown,  
 Whose Founder's scarce to doubtful History known,  
 Is England's theatre ; so rude and poor,  
 It's first essays, their authors are obscure :  
 Yet, the laborious Antiquary knows,  
 It's Birth, our Drama to Religion owes.  
 Misjudging piety, with little skill,  
 Burlesqu'd each sacred theme, nor deem'd it ill ;  
 Yet the old myst'ries which we now deride,  
 At once amused our sires, and edified ;  
 But Histrionic lore forsook at length,  
 The convent—grew refined, increased in strength.  
 But rude, the Theatre as Thespis' cart,  
 In which our noblest Bards essay'd their art,  
 A roofless hall, and rush strewn floor contained,  
 The ruff-deck'd audience when Eliza reign'd,  
 Thatch'd were the humble boards, by no scenes grac'd,  
 Which Marlow, Massinger, and Johnson paced ;  
 Yet this epoch, tho' unadorn'd the stage,  
 Was the Dramatic Muse's golden age :  
 Shakspear (transcendent star !) beamed not alone,  
 A galaxy of genius with him shone.

These Amateur performances were generally for charitable purposes.

Of the Savings' Bank, I can only say it was formed, when Trinidad came into possession of the English, and still exists : surely it must be a fine institution.

In returning from Cocorite, the barracks at St. James' look to great advantage. They are strikingly handsome, but in such a low position, as not to be seen till on a very near approach from the town. These buildings cost an immense sum in the construction, which is infinitely to be regretted ; because, similar barracks to those formerly at Orange Grove, formed of light, cheap materials, are much better adapted for a climate like Trinidad, besides being less susceptible of the shocks from earthquakes, there being an elasticity in them.

These lighter are simply constructed of Bamboo, wood work, and a clay like, or adhesive substance, for the walls, which are made by a lattice work of Bamboo, or round sticks, plastered and cemented by this

kind of mud, which, when dry, is white washed, and has a very neat appearance.

This mode of construction is termed *en Tapia*. The roofs are generally thatched with either *Carrat*, or *Timiti*; the latter, not being combustible, is much to be preferred.

Certainly, in a country so frequently visited by earthquakes, great attention should be paid to the buildings, and that plan adopted which is most likely to sustain the shocks; for though, providentially, Trinidad has experienced fewer fatal consequences than the other colonies, yet shocks are constantly felt, and the barracks of St. James', and other edifices have frequently been observed, to totter and wave to and fro with violence—in 1825 many buildings sustained great injury.

I remember, about the close of 1830, as I was, with two friends, returning from Arima, and just as we were crossing the river of San Joseph, being surprised at the sight of people running about in every direction and apparently in great consternation; on ask-

ing the cause we were told an earthquake had happened and damage had been done to the barracks there. The shock must have occurred at the time our horses were drinking in the river, for we did not perceive it.

Naming this as being rather singular, I was told of a gentleman who, riding between Port of Spain and San Juan, was surprised at his horse making a sudden spring as if greatly alarmed ; the rider looked round but could discover no cause for this unusual conduct. On reaching home he was told a severe convulsion had been felt, no doubt, at the moment his horse had started.

Though the year 1828 commenced with the formation of the race course, private and public theatricals, a sad gloom obscured its conclusion. The highly esteemed bishop of St. Gerran, Doctor Bulkeley, died after a short illness. He was buried on the spot where now stands the Catholic Cathedral, and his funeral, was a public one. Sir Ralph Woodford attended the interment of his friend, as chief mourner, and soon after left

the colony on a proposed tour of six or seven weeks—he never returned. The tears shed at his death, the veneration in which his memory is held, the lamentations of the rich and the poor best speak his eulogy; my testimony is feeble in comparison. Two years subsequently the colony again mourned over the loss of Chief Justice Warner, and later still that of Colonel Hardy, whose magnanimous conduct on the 1st of August 1834, when apprenticeship was substituted for slavery is well known.

I was present, with the late Colonel Hardy, at the Government House (or Office) at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on the memorable 1st August, 1834, when, as the first step to freedom, the quondam slaves of all the British Dominions, were denominated apprentices—the Governor and Council were all assembled to listen to a representation, or rather an interrogatory, of a number of negroes, regarding their supposed, unlimited, emancipation—these people appeared to be a deputation from a few French Estates;

and were for the most part very old men, old women, and children, the only young man among them, was their spokesman, who was probably selected, because he spoke the French language well—it was he who addressed the Governor, with the question, whether the King had not granted them (that is all slaves) unqualified liberty, from that date? That they understood so, and yet their managers and overseers insisted on their working, as usual, that Morning on the estates. I must here explain that French gentlemen, managers or overseers, accompanied these negroes to the Government House. H. E., the Governor, Sir George Hill, followed by the Members of Council, the Judges and other official Gentlemen, had repaired to the balcony of the Council chamber, to enquire into the cause of such an assemblage as then filled the Court Yard, below the building. In answer to the above question, he mildly observed, that His Majesty had indeed been most graciously pleased to grant them Freedom, that they

were consequently no longer slaves, but free British subjects from that day forth—yet, His Majesty had decreed that they were still to reside on the estate and serve, under certain enactments for their benefit, as before; in capacity of apprentices during six years, after which they would, in 1840, be free to go wherever they pleased—scarcely had His Excellency pronounced “Six years,” than the negroes, old women and men, vociferated “*pas de six ans, point de six ans*” (not six years, no six years)—hardly would they allow His Excellency to be heard in conclusion, so loud did they repeat “*pas de six ans,*” &c. The Governor however continued speaking to them, in their own language, with the greatest affability, and concluded by exhorting them, to return quietly home, like good folks, and resume their avocations under employers who, doubtless, would treat them kindly, and that indeed, the new laws ensured them good treatment; they nevertheless stood immoveable, and would not retire; the Governor then left the balcony, and lest



he might not have been properly understood by the multitude below, he directed one of the Secretaries, or Government Officers, present, to take his place, and explain more fully what he had said, which was done, but with no better success, the same vociferations being repeated at the words "six years" "*pas de six ans !*" &c. At this time two gentlemen, entered the council chamber, military officers, Captain Hay, and Captain Mackenzie, just arrived from England, on appointment, as Special Magistrates, to see the *act* for the apprenticeship carried into effect. One of these magistrates was accordingly directed by His Excellency to replace the preceding speaker, at the balcony, and explain to the infatuated people below, their error ; which the magistrate did in the most clear and intelligible manner ; read, and explained to them, the printed act, that he held in his hand ; exhorted them to withdraw peaceably and without delay, or it would become his painful duty to use compulsion ; but no, the foolish people were deaf to his

remonstrances, and ever and anon vociferated “ *Pas de six ans, nous ne voulons pas de six ans, nous sommes libres, le Roi nous a donné la liberté!*” “ Not six years, we will not have six years, we are free, the King has given us liberty!” at different pauses, or cessation of noise, the young spokesman represented in good French, and with eloquent and respectful tone, that they had toiled all their lives, had enriched their masters by the sweat of their brow, that the King was surely too good to exact of them six years more servitude, that their masters might take advantage, so as to work them, during that period, to death, or so immoderately, that they could not live long after service—at this, the magistrate assured them that he and his colleagues would take especial care to prevent any such abuse, that the act provided for so many hours moderate labour per day, and such and such allowance of food &c., and that it would be impossible for any one to ill-treat them—again he most earnestly exhorted them to withdraw, but in vain, they would not—torrents of rain fell,

but had apparently no effect on those people, they remained immoveable, vociferating "*pas de six ans &c.*"—the Members of Council, and some other gentlemen present, then lost all patience, and forcibly advised the Governor to declare Martial Law—the Militia was under arms in various parts of the town, and artillery drawn out at different points, an insurrection being apprehended, though no symptom of it appeared beyond the obstinacy of the foolish old people, in the government courtyard, headed by a single young man, and none of them had even a stick in their hands—nevertheless gentlemen, (civilians) about the Governor, were vehement in their demands for Martial Law—His Excellency appeared perplexed, and at length requested the opinion of Colonel Hardy, who had till then remained a tranquil spectator, but on being asked whether he deemed it advisable to declare Martial Law, he replied, decidedly not.—

"Martial Law!" exclaimed he—"against whom?—I see only old men, women, and

children, poor, ignorant people, who come to ask a question, and know no better—" or words to that effect. The chief Judge, and to the best of my recollection, the Attorney General, also, coincided in opinion with the Colonel, that there was no necessity for Martial Law, that the police could disperse the obstinate people.

It is to be remarked, that had martial law been proclaimed, Colonel Hardy would have been invested with the chief command, would have commanded the Militia, together with the regular force throughout the colony, whilst the the Governor's authority, in a great measure, if not entirely, would have been suspended—yet it was generally believed that had the Colonel advised it martial law would certainly then have been declared in Trinidad. Towards the close of evening, that is about sunset, the police were called on to act, and by persuasion, more than force, caused the obstinate apprentices to retire ; soon after which, Colonel Hardy took me with him, in his gig, to St.

James' Barracks ; on our way we saw bodies of militia, cannon planted at the entry of the streets, with militia artillerymen and lighted matches, as if prepared for a fierce encounter : and as the gig rolled on, a number of girls danced about it in the streets, singing French *arriettes* of, probably, their own composition on the goodness of King William in granting them freedom—which Colonel Hardy observed “ *looked mightily like insurrection.*” The two or three succeeding days more Negroes flocked to town and would not return to their masters, so that the magistrates were compelled to exert the power vested in them, and make some examples by having corporeal punishment inflicted on a few of the strong and refractory men, which had the desired effect, and the apprentices returned to the Estates and re-commenced work.

At Naparima the apprentices on some Estates were still more refractory, and severer examples made, which restored order, and all proceeded quietly afterwards.

For about a week or ten days after Aug. 1st 1834, the inhabitants (many of them) were very apprehensive of insurrection and revolt ; the French were the most alarmed. A lady, who had been driven from St. Domingo at the early part of the French Revolution, told me that the troubles in that Island, commenced by deputations of old persons coming forward in the first instance ; and, that, consequently, when she heard of the assemblage before the Government House, she dreaded lest similar horrors to those formerly perpetrated at St. Domingo were on the eve of being committed in Trinidad.

In order to name one circumstance of interest, I must retrograde to 1825, a year memorable by the visit, for the first time, of a Protestant Bishop. On landing, his lordship was received with the highest honors ; a salute fired from the sea fort, and a guard of honor in attendance. The late Colonel Brown, then commanding the troops and attended by all the officers in full dress

met him on the wharf and conducted him to the Government House. Sir Ralph Woodford gave a splendid dinner and appeared seated at the head of the table with a Protestant Bishop on his right hand and the Catholic dignitary on his left, the other clergymen of both creeds were all present.

One of the prettiest spots in the vicinity of Port of Spain is St. Ann's valley. A waterfall of about fifteen or twenty feet pours down from the mountains, and, flowing over shelving rocks, forms a basin of pure, fresh, limpid water in the upper part; which basin, in its overflow, forms several tiny lakelets from which glide small streams looking like threads of silver, amongst the grass and beneath the hanging foliage, as they run in the direction of the town to mingle with the waters of the gulf. It is little more than a bridle road up this valley, but what a pretty ride it is, beneath the shade of the bread fruit, bread nut, mango, orange, sappodillo, shaddock, mammee apple, cocoa nut, groogroo, forbidden or grape fruit, pawpaw,

with many others not considered as fruit trees in Europe, and always a friendly owner at hand to gather the orange, mango and sappodillo, &c., to present, if wished for, as you pass by the few pretty dwellings ; which, with their gardens, a blush of beauty, flowers, birds and butterflies, the scenery around embracing mountain, rivers, sea, city and foliage of every shade, all can be enjoyed in this lonely solitude. The two following mornings found me wending my way past Orange Grove and under the residence called Belmont, to visit the upper Basin. A delightful walk it is in the early morning from the city to Levantine, an eminence affording a complete panorama of the gulf, shipping and other points. And here let me recommend all sojourners in warm climates to rise early and imbibe the cool, refreshing air of the morning ; Europeans are generally deficient in this, but, depend upon it, it is a great preservative of health.

Thus far my Pilgrimage is ended, but as the



utility of the West Indies as colonies has recently been a matter for much speculation, with a list of the different districts &c., I subjoin the report of the committee of 1841, with the minutes of their proceedings, which was so far satisfactory as it clearly shewed, that these resources were of a nature, which only required an industrious population, to place the island, in the highest degree of prosperity : as one step towards so desirable an object, according to a statement, accompanying the report, the number of emigrants arrived in Trinidad, during two years and a half, from the 1st January 1839, to the 30th June 1841, amounted to 3897, the greater part of them, first rate labourers from the coast of Africa, the last part of these, having been brought thither under the care of Mr. Hamilton, who stated, before the committee, that a sinister rumour had been prevalent at Sierra Leone, to the effect that African emigrants would be sold as slaves on their arrival in the West Indies. In consequence of this report,

none at first accepted the offers made to engage them as labourers for the colonies, when at that time a detachment of the 3rd W. I. regiment, arrived at Sierra Leone, and the natives, on questioning the soldiers, were soon undeceived, and then engaged in great numbers; as many indeed as the Elizabeth and Jane, a ship of 336 tons, could contain.

The detachment, referred to by Mr. Hamilton, consisted of three companies, transferred from the 1st to the 3rd West India regiment, that were sent from Barbados, to Sierra Leone in February 1841.

Trinidad has, and will undoubtedly continue to have, the preference with the natives of Africa disposed to engage for employment in the British Colonies, and concurring accounts tend to prove that the emigrants from Africa are effective, in every respect as agricultural labourers, equally for the Sugar Cane, as any other sort of cultivation.\*

\* Number of emigrants (African) from August 1st 1834 to the close of 1843—1205.

By the statement, given by Martin Sorsano, Esquire, to the Committee, on the 16th July, 1841, there then were in Trinidad :

180 Sugar Estates, of which 104  
have distilleries,  
21,710 Acres planted in canes,  
6,910 Acres planted in cocoa,  
1,095 Acres planted in coffee,  
6,313 Acres planted in provisions  
7,237 Acres of pasture lands.

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Total... 43,265 Acres in cultivation.

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208,379 Acres granted, } in the  
1,079,301 Acres ungranted } Colony.

Thus—1,287,680 total number of acres according to Captain Columbine.

Population in Port of Spain, year 1838, males, 4,912, females, 6,716, total 11,698.

Population throughout Trinidad, year 1838—

Males ..... 19,250 }  
Females ... 20,078 } The last census taken.

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Total ..... 39,328.

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Quarters or Districts throughout the Colony.

1 Aricagua,

2 Arima,

- 3 Carenage and Cuesse,
- 4 Caroni,
- 5 Cedros,
- 6 Chagaramas, with the Northern Bocas, &c,
- 7 Couva, Savonetta, &c.,
- 8 Chaguanas.
- 9 Cimaromero,
- 10 Diego Martin,
- 11 Erin,
- 12 Guanapo,
- 13 Guayaguayare,
- 14 Hicacos and Quemada,
- 15 Irois,
- 16 La Brea and Guampo.
- 17 La Ventilla,
- 18 Maraval,
- 19 Mayaro,
- 20 Mucurapo,
- 21 North Naparima,
- 22 Oropuche,
- 23 Pointe à Pierre,
- 24 Port of Spain,
- 25 San Joseph,
- 26 Saint Ann,
- 27 Santa Cruz,
- 28 Savanna Grande,
- 29 Las Cuevas and Maraccas,
- 30 South Naparima,
- 31 Tragarete,

- 32 Toco and Cumana,
- 33 Town of San Joseph,
- 34 Tacarigua an Arouca,
- 35 Valley of Caura,
- 36 Valley of Maraccas,
- 37 Village of San Juan,
- 38 Village of Arima.

Besides those navigable, the following are among the vast number of Rivers, or Rivulets ; names of the various others not being generally known :—

- 1 Barancones,
- 2 Chaguanas,
- 3 Couva,
- 4 Guaracara,
- 5 Guatava,
- 6 La Branche,
- 7 Maraval,
- 8 Moroquito,
- 9 Rock,
- 10 San Joseph,
- 11 San James,
- 12 San Juan,
- 13 Diego Martin,
- 14 Siparia,
- 15 Warrapooche,
- 16 La Brea,
- 17 Guapo,
- 18 Irois.

Rivers navigable for boats.

- 1 Aripo,
- 2 Nariva, or Mitan,
- 3 Ortoire,
- 4 Marouga,
- 5 Saint John,
- 6 Guanaba,
- 7 Oropuche,
- 8 Rio Grande,
- 9 Taruga.

The 13th 14th 15th 16th of June, I took leave of friends, inspected Mr. Boisier's garden, the best in the island, next went to St. Ann's, sold my horse which had carried me in all my peregrinations through the island, and on the 17th between eleven and twelve o'clock, embarked on board the sloop Industry, to proceed to Martinique. In a few hours I was receding from the island, indulging a feeling of regret at leaving, a feeling which encreased, as the mountains gradually faded from my view, and the thought glanced across my mind, that perhaps I was departing never to return. But away, away, on the deep blue water, we sailed with

a fair breeze, along the beautiful coast near to the pasture, at the end of the town, under Fort George, past Cocorite, the Carenage, the five islets (formed by the Bocas, or Mouths, at almost equal distances from each other) and through the small Boca, or Boca de Monos, which having well cleared, the sloop stood for Grenada.

## MARTINIQUE.

### CHAPTER I.

ON the 18th of June I was sailing towards Grenada, with adverse wind and boisterous weather; reached the harbour in the afternoon but sailed away again in a very short time.

19th June. We tacked about the small cluster of Islands called the Grenadines, contending against a strong adverse current, contrary wind, or nearly so, and tempestuous weather.



On the twentieth by dint of tacking and much labour we reached St. Vincent's.

21st The weather became more favorable and towards the latter part of the day we came in sight of Martinique, looking, as Mr. Coleridge describes, "with its green upland of canes intersected with winding roads, and dotted with white houses, a deep ravine on one side, and precipitous mountains on the other, like a picture in a frame." In a short time we anchored and I hastened to enjoy a night's repose at an hotel.

After having been accustomed to the beauty of Port of Spain, St. Pierre appears to little advantage ; yet it is rather a pretty town, and the redundancy of its population gives it a bustling, animated look to the eyes of the stranger. The streets are narrow, and the principal are refreshed by streams of water passing rapidly through the centre ; but this trenches rather too much upon their limited breadth and makes it difficult for vehicles to pass along them, and is perhaps

is the reason why there is scarcely a carriage to be seen in the town.

The shops or, as here they are called, Magazins, and in our colonies stores, are handsome and embellished with jewelry, glass, porcelain, plate, watches, drawings, engravings, ribbons, bonnets, caps, ladies dresses, &c. all of Parisian fashion and arranged in the true Parisian style. These shops, as indeed most of the houses besides, have projecting galleries or verandahs opening to the streets, and affording shelter from the rain and sun to pedestrians. The churches, two of them are large and handsome, and the custom house is a spacious edifice opening upon the sea. Some of the other buildings are good, particularly the theatre, but not such as to attract attention.

Two excellent markets, one at each end of the town, supply the inhabitants with every thing needful ; figs at this time were plentiful, with all the tropical fruits. I saw a good supply of strawberries, the only European

fruit ; of our vegetables, there were artichokes, green peas, french beans, and a quantity of asparagus.

But every fruit and vegetable, was thrown into shade by the brilliant appearance of the Malacca Apples, which were here displayed in profusion. Nothing can be more beautiful than the appearance of these trees, presenting to view a tall, straight, graceful stem, verdant green foliage, splendidly contrasted with the vermilion of its fruit and blossoms. At Port of Spain it adorns the streets and must forcibly attract the attention of strangers. The flavor of the fruit does not correspond with its appearance, which in form resembles our apples, but has a stone in the centre, similar to a plum. It is beautiful to see this fruit exposed for sale in the markets, or carried along the streets on the head, in baskets, or on a table at dessert ; but though juicy and refreshing it is insipid.

The *Jardin des Plantes* was in excellent order, and must be quite a treasure to the good people of St. Pierre ; for there they

can enjoy a ramble, or sit in groups under the shade of the large cauchouc, or India rubber trees ; refreshed by the sight of the cascade, which falls from a height of one hundred feet, and replenishes a large and deep basin that, overflowing, irrigates the gardens in meandering streams, supplying two ponds and forming several small islets.

On one of these pretty islets there is a beautiful Cinnamon tree, and the ponds contain the fish called Gouramee, originally brought from Batavia.

This species of fish is much prized in the Isle of France, and preserved in the ponds of the plantations there, with great care. A story is related of a gentleman in that colony, who promised to give a portion of ten thousand dollars with the hand of his daughter ; a lover soon presented himself and in due time the marriage followed. After the solemnization of the nuptials, the Father conducted his new son-in-law to an *etang* in his grounds, told him that in pursuance of his promise, he made over that *etang* to him,

as it contained ten thousand Goumarees, of which fish he was well aware the current price was a dollar each.\* How the new *mari* liked this dowry we know not, but as nothing is said to the contrary we will hope he was satisfied and that disappointment did not attend his wedding day. Now, *revenons a nos fleurs*, of which there is a splendid display in this garden, and which is the greatest beauty St. Pierre has to boast of ; to enumerate the different kinds would be impossible, suffice it to say then, there is every thing to be seen in profusion, from the forest flower to the lofty palm. If not superior to the Botanic Garden of Port of Spain, there is an air of greater gaiety about it, partaking of the French character of the inhabitants ; so many gay groups are seen strolling through its walks, or conversing under the trees ; gazing, with eyes almost as bright as the sparkling drops scattered around, at the waterfall, or laughing at the gambols

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\* The dollar, or piastre D'Espagne, is valued at five shillings British at the Mauritius.

of the fish in the ponds, which they entice to the surface to snatch the crumbs they scatter on it for them.

The prettiest house in this town is, undoubtedly, that belonging to Monsieur Perenel, with its equally lovely gardens, adorned with as beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers, as the apartments of the house are furnished with all the tastefully arranged comforts, and elegances of domestic life ; I visited a house pointed out to me as having been the birth place, and where she resided till her first marriage, of the Empress Josephine ; but excepting for the interest attached to it on that account, it displays nothing in appearance to make it noticed beyond the other dwellings near.

A pretty road about a mile from the town leads past the parade ground and barracks, which are advantageously situated over a stream of pure water flowing from the Botanic Garden.

Next to the *Jardin des Plantes*, the greatest luxury in Martinique, are the bathing

establishments, a luxury no one can properly appreciate till they have felt the heat of a tropical climate ; one of these establishments is near the sea, the other in the main street, offering to those requiring a choice of hot, cold, tepid, fresh, or salt, water baths.

The Canal de Carbet, formed from the river of that name, is a stupendous work, and took many years to complete, at an immense expense, but its utility is great, for it contributes largely to the supply of St. Pierre, and what is still more important, waters a considerable tract of country, and many valuable estates which would be otherwise greatly in need of fresh water.

June 23rd 1841, just two days after my arrival in the island, I left St. Pierre on a horse hired for the purpose, and taking the road, which ascending gradually winds beautifully at its commencement, over the town, of which you catch, in the various turnings, a complete view. For the first six miles I passed through a succession of rich cultivation, adorned with handsome dwellings, till

I reached a pretty waterfall of apparently thirty feet in height, and after leaving that my sight was constantly refreshed with cool springs close to the path, and furnished with drinking utensils for the thirsty wayfarer.

The town of La Trinité, which may be considered, in point of importance, the third in the island, is advantageously situated near the bay, and contains some good houses and regular streets; but possesses no great attraction to travellers. I took it in my route, as a resting place *en passant*, and the morning after my arrival proceeded to the *riviere du Galion*, about two miles distant from the town, the deep stream of which I crossed in a Ferry Boat.

In writing of this river, Labat gives a curious description of a large fish called Lamantin or Manati, caught near its mouth in 1695; a fish, if we may credit the good father's words, between fourteen and fifteen feet long, and eight feet, two inches in circumference. A young one taken at the same time and which measured three feet in



length, was dressed for supper. The description is as follows—"They had the tail part roasted on a spit, the head and remainder of the body were prepared in different ways. A sucking calf and this fish differ in nothing ; it is the same flesh by its whiteness, its tenderness, and its delicacy ; the taste and savour are the same, and if I had not seen the fish before it was cut and cooked, it would have been difficult to persuade me that it was not meat." Again he writes—"This fish seeks places where there are rivers, because it comes to drink fresh water once or twice each day, after eating a certain herb that grows at the bottom of the sea, which herb is from eight to ten inches long, narrow, pointed, soft and of a handsome green colour. One sees places in the sea, the bottom of which is like a meadow ; turtle eat of that herb likewise. It is easy to perceive when these animals are *en pature*, because the herb which escapes them in masticating or cutting, rises above the water. The fat of the Lamantin is very good, easily

melts into oil, which never becomes rancid, and is used for various purposes ; nothing can be whiter, more tender, or more delicate than its flesh."

I made many enquiries from the inhabitants, whether such an extraordinary fish as the Lamantin, Manati, or Sea Cow, still frequented the river Galion or the adjoining coast, but I believe my questions were laughed at, and myself considered, as the Scotch express it, daft, for no one understood what I wanted, or could tell me of any extraordinary creature, such as the French author describes.

Disappointed of being able to put a wonder in my note book, I returned to La Trinité to breakfast with Mr. Mackay, and after our meal walked to the church, to see the curate, the market and other places, which to a stranger are amusing, but which are not distinguished above the common place : in the evening we dined together with a pleasant addition to our social party in a Monsieur Michard.

25th June I departed from La Trinité, and crossing the river Galion entered upon a

good road, and most interesting cultivated scenery, enclosures filled with the gay blossoms of the Barbados' Pride, and other flowers; fine estates, pretty dwellings, gardens, and orchards, the whole distance to Havre du Robert, a poor village, near a good harbour, sufficiently capacious for a British armament to anchor in, previously to the capture of the island during the last war. On leaving this little spot I proceeded on to Lamantin; but that, like Havre Robert, offers nothing sufficiently attractive to detain the traveller very long within its precincts; a river of the same name, navigable for small craft, flows past it into the interior, giving a little animation to the suburbs.

I was anxious to reach Fort Royal, the approach to which from the land side is picturesque in the extreme. In descending from the Pitons du Fort Royal, the eye embraces in one view Fort Bourbon, the town, the Grande Place, Fort St. Louis, Islet de Ramiers, (Pigeon Island) besides a vast extent, comprising mountains, sea, valleys, and

villages. The town is rather large and may be said to rank next to St. Pierre. Like most places in the colonies, it has the blue sea in front, and Fort Bourbon towering majestically behind, looking, as you gaze up to it from the streets, of appalling height, but the ascent is on a good road, and I found the climbing it, a delightful way of gaining an appetite for my breakfast, the morning after my arrival.

The Grande Place, a large green with avenues of shady trees, is the fashionable promenade at Fort Royal, and at times it has a very gay and pretty appearance, when the townspeople are assembled there, walking under the trees or seated on the benches, listening to the music, and gazing at the soldiers from Fort St. Louis, to whom it serves as a parade ground.

Fort St. Louis is a small place situated below Fort Royal, near the sea. Belle-vue, the residence of the governor, is the best near the town. I left my card, but the

illness of his Excellency prevented me the pleasure of an interview.

In 1841 Fort Royal had seemingly much recovered from the devastating effects of the earthquake that occurred on the 11th January, 1839 ; a stranger walking in the streets, would scarcely have observed anything to denote that such a disaster had befallen the town—but at a little distance, the ruins of the hospital, destroyed on the dreadful occasion, were perceptible—no damage appears to have been sustained elsewhere, yet the shock, without inflicting real injury, was severely felt at St. Lucia—the Officers' Barracks at Morne Fortuné were seen to wave to and fro as if about to fall—these two Islands are much exposed to earthquakes and hurricanes, and have at different periods suffered from these awful visitations.

The earthquake of the 8th February, 1843, is said to have been but slightly felt at Martinique.

About noon on the 26th I left Fort Royal,

and proceeded to St. Pierre, arriving at Case Pilote at four o'clock p.m. Case Pilote reminds me of some of those small sea-ports, or rather fishing-ports, in England, with a small church and clergyman's house attached, one or two other tolerable residences, but no inn or hotel. I was indebted to a French family, poor but of genteel manners, for accommodation; I troubled them more than once with my company during my stay in the island, and was always received with a smile of welcome. To the curate also I owe much for kindness shown to a wayfarer, and should these pages ever meet his eye, I hope he will believe in the sincerity of the pleasure I feel in bearing testimony to his hospitality. I returned to St. Pierre the following morning, having visited, during my short tour, Port de Trinité, Riviere du Galion, Havre du Robert, Lamentin, Fort Royal, Pointe des Negres, Case Navire, Fond Bourlet, Case Piloté, Fond Gramont, Fond Laillet, Fond Capot, and the Village de Carbet. The road is bad through this part of the country,

and so mountainous and difficult in places as to be scarcely practicable for a horse to travel. As for gigs or vehicles, they appear to have been banished from Martinique, for not one, of any description, met my view during this journey. The inconvenience of the road induced me, when I next visited Fort Royal, to go by sea ; but that is a still more disagreeable method, excepting that the transit is made in less time. Boats may be hired at all hours, but they are of a most uncomfortable description, possessing no bank or seat. Passengers in them generally provide themselves with mattresses, upon which they recline, during the passage ; though, in that situation they are liable in rough weather to be washed over by the waves, or, as I was on this 30th of June, soaked by the rain. The Morne, on which Les Fontaines Chaudes, are situated, is very lofty, and the explorer must prepare to toil up an ascent of nine miles before reaching the summit, on which there are a few cottages, inhabited by invalids, and persons who resort thither for the

benefit of the baths. There is to me something delightful in living at the top of a mountain, midway between earth and Heaven, and notwithstanding its inconveniences, no wonder this is much frequented, the air is cool and salubrious and the springs possessed of qualities which, were they in Europe, would cause Wiesbaden and Schwalbach to be deserted. The level space is limited, and enclosed by an almost impervious forest ; but what lovely spots might be formed on the declivity ; what easy, winding paths cut up the mountain sides ! I scarcely know a more charming spot, than could be made of the pretty waterfall at the source of the river Case Navire, situated within a short distance of the springs, but which can now only be reached by wading through mud and water, climbing rocks, and scrambling amidst thick wood. Hitherto no flowers, or vegetables have flourished, but surely, by clearing more ground, and attending to the cultivation, they could be produced, at least in sufficient quantities to serve for the few



residents, and the sick, instead of sending to Fort Royal, as they are compelled to do at present. The *Chaudes Fontaines* are eight in number, seven of them furnished with *baignoires*, whilst the other is formed under the pipe conducting the water, to serve as a bath *à douche*: according to the analysis made by two French physicians, the water of these fountains is composed of the following ingredients.

- 1 Chloruret of Calcinum
- 2 Chloruret of Potassium
- 3 Carbonate of Iron
- 4 Carbonate of Magnesia
- 5 Carbonate of Lime

The warmth is thirty-one degrees of Raurmur, it is perfectly clear in appearance, but of a most nauseous taste. Very near to the springs that supply the baths flows a rivulet of cold, fresh water, a branch of the river Case Navire. But too long have I lingered over the "Pitons du Fort Royal." Even when there I stayed till I was almost too late to return to St. Pierre that night, which I was anxious to do, as I saw a probability of rain.

My prognostications were fulfilled ; the rain fell in torrents the whole of the following day, and I was obliged to rest tranquilly, under shelter of the hotel, instead of riding to the village at the foot of the Gros Morne, a mountain of globular form, very lofty, and seen at some distance on the right of the road leading from St. Pierre to La Trinité.

During the next few days I was employed in visits to La Montagne estate with Mr. O'Mullane ; to the Canal de Carbet, with M. Tessier ; to call upon Monsieur Sablon, at Parnasse ; thence to the two rivers called Mahot, both of which flow towards, and contribute to the waterfall in the *Jardin des Plantes* : but all which I forbear to write of individually, lest I weary.

The 6th of July saw me on board the French schooner La Grande Mouche, which sailed for Guadeloupe.

# GRENADA.

## CHAPTER I.

THE name of Grenada was bestowed upon this island by the first settlers, who fancied they saw, in its lofty mountains, a resemblance to their native province in Spain. It is situated in latitude  $11^{\circ} 31'$  North, longitude  $60^{\circ} 50'$  West, about thirty leagues north of the main land of South America, and about sixty south of Martinique. It extends, from Point Saline to Levera point, twenty one

miles in length ; and the utmost breadth from Moliniers point to Great Bacolet point, is nine miles and a half. The circumference, measured by the sea beach, is computed at sixty two miles.

On quitting Port of Spain with the intention of visiting Grenada, the voyager passes from the Gulf of Paria, through one of the Northern Bocas, thus approaching the island from the south. On doubling Point Saline, and sailing past the estate called True Blue, a magnificent scene disclosed, comprising George town, with the bay in front, Government House, Richmond Heights, and much of the surrounding country. On a gentle eminence, at the principal end of the town, stands Fort George, commanding the entrance of, and protecting the Carenege ; on Richmond Heights, rising several hundred yards above the level of the sea, and towering over the town, are the forts Mathew, Frederick, or the citadel, Adolphus, and Lucas ; besides smaller batteries, and detached guns ; and more beautiful still, Mount

Cardigan with the military hospital, looking, when sailing into the bay, like some splendid palace.

Much has been written on Grenada, but unfortunately, much, that has gone forth to the world, has been written from information, or taken from other books, and is not the result of personal observation ; but all writers agree in the splendour of the approach to this island, and if I give a less elaborate description, it is because mine is but the simple detail of a soldier, who seeks to impart a true picture of the places he has visited, for the amusement of fireside travellers, but who does not wish to colour his sketches, sufficiently, to induce those readers to quit the home of their birth, to encounter the disagreeables of travelling : and travelling is not all pleasure, there are many perils both by flood and field, many deprivations, therefore let those who are compelled to rest at home think of this.

But I am making a long digression from my subject, when my readers are, perhaps,

wishing to have those spots, at present only seen in bright perspective, brought nearer to view ; in reality wish to get on shore, if the swelling surf beating with violence on the beach will allow them. It is shocking in boisterous weather, to land from the bay, the waves of which wash quite up to the town ; but in the Carenage the water is always smooth, and you can step on the quay without difficulty.

This harbour or basin, affords shelter for vessels of all classes during the hurricane months, and here also they can get repaired ; many small craft, schooners, and sloops, being built there. In the hurricane of September 1835 when a number of vessels in Carlisle Bay, Barbados, were torn from their anchors, obliged to put to sea and many lost, a steam packet and mail boat, that were driven thence, steered for Grenada, found refuge and repaired their damages in this Carenage.

George Town, which appears to rise from the sea, is built upon a hill, which circumstance gives its picturesque appearance, but

does not conduce to its comforts, as a residence ; for though the houses are good and substantial, the streets are narrow and steep. Looking up from many parts of the town, on a clear day, the buildings and guns on Richmond Height may be seen glittering in the sun at a distance of two miles ; whilst, in the intermediate space, the eye rests upon the Government house which, with the various buildings, and the broad road winding up the ascent, bordered here and there by lofty trees, gives a splendid appearance to the scene, and makes the gazer long to escape from the town, to enjoy a ramble amongst those magnificent avenues : and then how picturesque is the sight when the height is reached ; on each side, and around you, are the various forts, batteries, and barracks, the principal of which are on fort Mathew, the officers' mess room and the commanding officer's quarters, with the garden and luxuriant row of white cedar trees, immediately under fort Frederick ; opposite, again rises mount Cardigan, crowned by one

of the finest hospitals in the colonies, though since I visited Grenada a destructive fire has reduced the hospital to ruins.

Mount Cardigan is separated from the fort by a ravine, about two furlongs across ; down which you gaze into a cultivated valley, whilst in the far distance the eye wanders over the different fine estates scattered though the island, and then rests upon the sea as it girdles this interesting panorama.

But once more to descend into the town, and view the bustle going on, on the quay of the Carenage ; what a medley scene greets you ! and how cheerful look the Commissariat buildings, and Merchants' warehouses ! how cool and refreshing is the watering place or fountain, the waters of which are superior to any others in the West Indies ! what a confusion of tongues ! it almost makes you wish again to escape to the country ; but yet there is attraction in the look of industry around, the loading and unloading, dragging of chains and cables, casks rolling in every direction, furling and unfurling sails ; every



body busy ; with perhaps here and there, a solitary individual like yourself, looking as if they exulted in comparing their own listless enjoyment, to the careworn, tedious drudgery of others.

Many persons speak of the solidity of the buildings of Grenada, but, as I observed of the barracks in Trinidad, it is a question whether, in a country so subject to earthquakes, those of a more fragile description are not better calculated to withstand the shocks.

The earthquake in 1825, did great mischief in this colony, nearly destroying the Protestant Church, which, after the injury it sustained, was two years in being completed.

The market place of George Town, is a clear level space, used as a parade ground previously to emancipation. This place wants the trees, shrubs, and flowers, that are profusely scattered over Bridgetown, but it can boast of a mahogany-tree of a size scarcely to be met with any where else, and

this immense tree stands in a street leading towards the church.

But who can dwell long in towns, whatever their attraction, when there are valleys to be explored, mountains to be crossed, or lakes to be visited ; not a lover of nature such as I am ; so, after breakfast, on the morning of the 13th of June, 1839, I rode, in company with Lieut. M——, to the *Grand Etang*.

The road leading to this mountain lake is considerably improved within the last few years ; now it is easy for two horsemen to travel abreast, whereas formerly it was difficult even for one to force a passage through the intertwining branches ; this superfluous vegetation has been cleared, so that the sun's rays can penetrate and dry the ground, thus enabling the traveller to ride leisurely along a distance of eight miles from George Town, past the vale of Tempé, an estate enriched by a range of mahogany trees. About one third up the ascent, a small, but rather pretty

looking, building has been erected for the double purpose of a Chapel and a School.

From 1826 till 1834, a party of colony rangers, with an officer, was stationed at the Grand Etang, and here, in this charming spot, they constructed their neat looking cottages, and formed their gardens; but the former are now abandoned, and in ruins; the latter overgrown with weeds and grass. The officer's house only shews signs of order, that being occupied by a police constable employed there, and who furnishes refreshments for the weary wanderers.

Mr. Montgomery Martin, gives the elevation of the Grand Etang, at 1740 feet, and two miles in circumference; but I believe its correct dimensions are three quarters of a mile round, and 1595 feet above the level of the sea to the surface of the water; whilst the morne on which it is situated rises in the North to a height of 1782 feet, and 1775 feet in the southern part.

Till lately the lake was supposed to be fathomless, but recently its depth has been

ascertained to be eleven feet. The water is quite pure.

It is a beautiful spot, and one to leave an impression on the mind, which lingers even amid fairer scenes. That splendid amphitheatre of mountains! decked, to quote Mr. Montgomery Martin's words, "in all the verdant grandeur of a tropical forest," birds and butterflies of various hues fluttering over the surface of the water, on which are constantly seen, wild ducks, that take refuge in the thick, high rushes on the borders, at the slightest noise, or approach of a human being; flowers, shining brilliantly in the bright sun, add charms to a spot, all who view it must wish to linger in.

Near the Etang you see many of the trees bearing beautiful rose apples, but which are of most insipid flavor.

When at the lake the wanderer must go to an eminence above the Etang mountain, called, formerly, Jumbee Hill; but which now, in compliment to her Majesty, is styled Victoria Hill, and thence take a view of the

country over the fertile district of La Baye, with its valuable estates, consisting of rich, level lands watered with streams and rivulets of clear water. A road from the lake conducts through this luxuriant looking country; but having formed my plans and my party for lake Antoine, I returned to George town.

On the 15th I started with three friends on an excursion for the river Antoine, hoping to arrive there before evening, but the weather was unpropitious, rain commenced ere we left George town, and did not cease till we arrived at the estate called great Bacolet, where we alighted to breakfast.

Clearing up a little we proceeded but only for a short distance: the rain again came down in torrents, which rendered the road over a mountainous country, and one naturally difficult to traverse, slippery, that harassed, and wet, we changed our course and sought rest and shelter at little Bacolet; where every attention was shewn by the manager, though unprepared for such an innovation to his circle.

I suspect some of our party, more weather wise than the rest, saw the rain would continue on the morrow, and so left myself and one companion to wend our way to lake Antoine without them. We first proceeded to St. Andrew's river, and Grenville Bay, through the small town of Grenville, to the estate of the river Antoine, to which the gentleman, my companion, was attorney. The lake is situated about a mile distant from the estate, and from a memorandum given me by the proprietor, covers an extent of almost sixty acres, is nearly circular in form, between sixty and seventy feet deep, and twenty three feet above the level of the sea. It has been for many years increasing.

On descending to the margin of the lake, I was struck with the sight of a number of plates, placed near a boat floating close to the edge. These plates were filled with rice, plantains, yams, eggs, &c. ; and had been placed there, a few days previously to my visit, by a concourse of Negroes who went in grand procession to convey their offerings,

and propitiate the mermaid, or spirit of the lake, that she might grant them rain to fertilize their provision grounds which they feared would fail in consequence of great drought.

Most generous was the mood of the spirit, for abundant rain fell in the course of the day, and these poor simple minded creatures went home rejoicing in the belief that their offerings had been accepted and their crops would be plentiful.

A similar ceremony to this is practised, by the natives on some parts of the coast of India, but with this exception, that instead of placing their offerings on the shore, they throw a boat load into the sea. This homage to the spirit of the waters, takes place at Bombay, in the month of August, and is called cocoa nut day, all danger of monsoon according to the natives is then at an end, and vessels of every description may safely put to sea.

But to return to lake Antoine, the water, on which ducks were enjoying the descending rain, was clear, and tasted to me very good,

an opinion agreed in by my conductor, but who said that on many previous occasions he had found it unpleasant. A green sloping embankment of some height, surrounds the lake, which Mr. Montgomery Martin states to be of nearly similar size to the *Grand Etang* but surely he could never have visited both or he must have seen how much larger the *Grand Etang* really is.

On my visit to the last named spot, all was bright, and cheering, the brilliant sun poured down a flood of radiance on the sleeping waters, and sparkled on the bright green foliage of the lofty trees, imparting a brilliant depth of colour to the varied flowers that decked the margin. Lake Antoine bore a different aspect, there were no paths of sparkling light upon its dull waters, the flowers hung their drenched heads, and even the trees looked mournful.

In pity to my companion to whom the scene was not new I proposed a speedy return to the estate, and shortly after, well



dried and comfortable, started to return to the town. Our comfort was of short duration, for a heavy shower soon completely drenched us and compelled us to seek shelter in the house of a gentleman on a cocoa plantation. Here we were joined by our fellow travellers whom we had left at little Bacolet, and once more dry and refreshed, continued our route over Noel's hill by the *Grand Etang*, and arrived at George town about five o' clock. I finished the day by going to dine with a friend near Richmond heights.

During my excursions these two days I saw a vast number of fine estates, chiefly of sugar, on the plain of la Baye, enlivened by rivulets of clear water, and the houses adorned in front with avenues of lofty trees, such as the mountain cabbage, cocoa, cedar, Angeline, bois immortel, and mango. On the Hermitage estate, is a mephitic spring, which like that at the grotto of Pausilippo, destroys animal life if too long exposed to its influence. Certainly my course was through

some of the prettiest scenery of the island, with] a view of Morne Guagua, and Mount St. Catherine in the distance, with every now and then a glimpse of Grenville bay and a large barque lying there at anchor.

## CHAPTER II.

18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE I started early for the Annandale estate, the road to which leads past *Tempé* as far as the school towards the *Grand Etang*, thence a path to the left conducts, by a descent of between two and three miles to Annandale, enlivened by highly cultivated lands and fruit trees ; beautiful streamlets and pretty waterfalls ; one apparently twenty feet high. On this estate is the chalybeate spring, referred to by Mr. Montgomery Mar-

tin, which issues from a rock and flows into a rivulet beneath ; its water looks clear and sparkling to the eye but is very acid and of an unpleasant metallic taste ; rather warmer in temperature than the rivulet beneath, and being a fine tonic, Mr. R. tried to induce me to drink off a tumbler full of it, saying it would give me an appetite for my breakfast ; but it was so nauseous to me I could not follow his example, and when returned to George Town I proved the efficacy of a ride to accomplish that end, without the aid of a nasty tonic, by the havoc I made on his excellent mullet, fresh butter, eggs, &c.

20th June. The sun rose brightly, giving promise of a fine day, so about 9 o'clock I embarked in a Goyave passage canoe, with the intention of visiting Revolution Hall, a rich, fertile sugar estate, about two or three miles from the neat looking little town or village of Goyave.

My friend Mr. R— had written to his son to inform him of my determination, and he kindly met me at the beach of Palmiste,

with a horse, on which I proceeded to the hall, and meeting there a gentlemen who knew the road, and who offered to be my escort, after taking refreshment, I set out to ascend to Plaisance, situated on what might be called a lofty mountain, did not Morne St. Catherine tower majestically above, making its less elevated neighbour look small in comparison.

The path from Revolution Hall to Plaisance presents an unvaried scene of rich cultivation, and the estate is one of the most productive in the island, the cocoa, coffee and avocado pear grow in profusion protected, not as in Trinidad by the *bois immortel*, but by a beautiful large evergreen called *Pois-doux*.

At the extreme end of the domain, almost under Morne St, Catherine, a rock rises from which flow two springs, so close to each other that there is scarcely room for any one to stand between them ; one warm, the other cold ; the former so much impregnated with sulphur that a strong smell is percep-

tible, and the pieces of rock and stone around are incrustated with a substance like brimstone. The heat of the water does not equal that of the hottest at the baths of Nevis, but is greater than the other. Both these springs descend into small, natural basins, formed by the continual falling of the water.

It is a pity that some of the springs with which Plaisance abounds, are not made the means of constructing bathing places. It could easily be managed by enlarging the pools into which some of them fall, and guiding the course of the water. But perhaps ere this, (I was there in 1839—) it has been effected, for the proprietor, who had then done great things in the way of improvements on this property, told me he intended clearing the road to the springs, and examining into their properties. It is very pleasing to go over this estate, so rich in cultivation, so well watered that the driest season can do but little mischief; every department is complete; the house, for storing the produce, spacious and provided with trays or drawers, as at *la Reconnaissance*, (Tri-

nidad) for drying the cocoa ; these trays are so constructed as to be slid in on the approach of rain.

The large grains of cocoa produced here, cannot fail being highly nutritious, and therefore how much better adapted for the soldiers rations, than that which has probably been deposited in the Merchant stores for years. Cocoa is only in perfection when new.

Circumstances obliged me to refuse all the kind entreaties of the proprietor of *Plaisance* and his lady that I would remain with them to dinner, or return and pass a few days on a spot that pleased me so much ; equally kind and hospitable were the devices to induce me to remain at Revolution Hall, and gladly would I have given a day or two to have inspected its profusely yielding fruit trees, plantations, &c. Work people flock thither from all parts, and at this time it was one of the few domains in the West Indies, that had not suffered from the emancipation.

I was compelled to return and sleep at Palmiste, in order to take the passage canoe

next morning to return to town. Pleasant enough are these passage boats of tolerable size, four rowers, a steersman, sails, and awning, for if the wind is favourable the passage is soon made, and gliding along the coast you catch a view of many fine estates, with beautiful and diversified scenery ; but with the wind unpropitious, and unfavourable weather, one would be apt to wish a change to the deck of a steamer.

June 22nd I spent in strolling about George Town, and looking at the improvements in point of comfort, by means of pipes across the Carenage, from the islet of the springs to supply all parts of the town ; in the Market place, a fine fountain now throws its sparkling sprays high in air, and diffuses a cool refreshing feeling around ; pumps too now furnish the inhabitants with that blessing, when formerly it had to be brought from a distance.

The Protestant church is a very pretty building, and its internal decorations are in good taste ; a monument to the memory of



Colonel Mair who died as Lieutenant Governor in 1836 tells, in eulogistic terms, how he was esteemed and respected by the colonists ; another bears the name of Lieutenant Governor Holmes, with the names of those who were massacred with him in the insurrection of the rebels in 1795. The Rev. Mr. Mc. Mahon, who was a prisoner to the rebels during that revolt, published an account of all that occurred in the island at that period, and a tablet in this church now tells that his labours in this world have ceased.

Except the market place and on the quay at the Carenage there is but little level ground in George Town, the streets are rugged and steep, and paved with small stones that, unless the feet are protected by strong boots or shoes, walking is really painful, at least to most persons ; some of the poorer class skip nimbly about the sharp pavement as if in ridicule to those luxuriating in boots, and who are less agile in their movements.

The presbyterian chapel stands on a gentle

eminence at the entrance of Fort George, forming a pretty object on entering the bay from the sea. The Catholic chapel is a small, low building at the upper part of the town, and, not far from it, on the opposite side of the street, is the Court House, a well built, handsome edifice, facing the road leading to Government House. The jail is very small and the solitary cells too close for safety.

The entrance into Fort George is through a gateway near to the presbyterian chapel. In another direction above the town is Hospital Hill, on which are the remains of the fortifications and barracks long since abandoned, but of which sufficient still stand to attest their former importance.

Just under the fortifications are four excavations, on a much smaller scale, but somewhat similar to the galleries at Gibraltar, and cut, like them, in the solid rock. One of these excavations measures fifty-four, two others thirty, and the fourth one-and-twenty paces in length; all, four paces in breadth, and the three longest communica-

ting at the end. They are of good height, but otherwise close and dark, admitting light only from the entrances.

For what purpose, or at what period these passages were pierced, whether prior, or subsequent, to the attack of the French armament under Count D Estaing in the year 1799. is not known, I could learn nothing of their history.

The path leading from the town to Richmond Heights is by an ascent beyond that part called Montserrat; the road is steep, but broad enough for carriages, and the forts, &c. are all in excellent order. Three companies of the 70th regiment occupy the barracks at Fort Mathew, which, with three companies and a detachment at Fort George, including a staff of thirteen officers, fifteen serjeants, three drummers, three-hundred-and-forty-one rank and file, forms the military force in Grenada.

23rd, This morning I went on board the cutter Diamond, with the idea of going to Tobago, and accordingly sailed a little after

ten ; before eleven it began to rain and blow with violence, and, as day advanced, the gale increased. Nevertheless the cutter glided rapidly along the coast, past Moliniers point, the different bays and points of lands to Levera bay, when standing off towards the Grenadines, we encountered so heavy a sea and such a strong, adverse wind that our rigging was damaged

It was determined to put into the isle Rhonde for shelter, but, in tacking, a sea struck the vessel with such force as to carry away the bulwarks, and did so much other mischief that the captain was compelled to return to the Carenage, to refit. We arrived at Georgetown about midnight, and harassed and wet, from both sea and rain, I gladly sought the hotel, I had left in the morning.

It was amusing to see the countenance of the landlord when he met me on my entrance. In the midst of my fatigue I laughed heartily at his fright, for I am sure the poor man thought he saw a ghost.

On the twenty fifth we put to sea again

and with fine weather and a good view of the coast all the way we entered Laveria by sunset ; tacking on and off towards the Isle Ronde, and other of the Grenadines, we ran through the passage formed by small islets connected by a natural bridge called London Bridge, and cleared the island of Grenada during the night.

## CHAPTER II.

I DEPARTED from Grenada in 1839 ; but not thus am I going to suffer you, my kind reader, to leave, there are one or two other spots I should like you to follow me to, therefore, imagine me again, on the 24th of October, in 1841, landed at the Carenage, and after a refreshing night's rest, seated, with Lieutenant M. under the awning of the passage canoe, and sailing or rather, being rowed towards Goyave. At

that place we breakfasted and then went in the boat, to the village, Grand Pauvre, where we landed, and mounting the horses that had been led from Georgetown for our accommodation started for Tufton Hall, thence up the ascent to Bel air, to visit a singular spring which issues from the ground, overflows a small sort of basin, and disperses around. The water of this spring is clear, very warm, but exceedingly salt to the taste much more so than sea-water.

The gentleman who showed me this natural wonder, assured me surprising cures had been effected both by ablution in its waters, and from drinking of them. As at Fontaines Chaudes, close to this warm spring, rivulets of cold, limpid, fresh, water were flowing.

I rested at Tufton hall that night, but next day, which commenced with heavy rain, Lieutenant Mackenzie going with me, I descended to Grand Pauvre; but there we parted, military duty compelling him to return to Fort George, whilst I rode in another direction, passing by Cray fish, Dorchester,

Duquesne bay, Mount Alexander, Mount Rodney, village des Sauteurs, Morne des Sauteurs, and Marli, to the Hermitage.

The road, being alone, seemed long and tedious ; at Morne des Sauteurs, a heavy shower detained me sometime ; but if as an atonement for my previous loneliness, midway from the Morne to Marli, I encountered my esteemed friend Mr. Paterson, to whose kind hospitality I had been indebted fifteen years before. Our pleasure at meeting was mutual, he turned and rode with me to Marli, and to the estate Madays, where, finding he could not prevail on me to lengthen my stay, we parted, and I joined Mr. Horsford in a visit to the mephetic spring at Hermitage, thence I once more traversed the fertile district of La Baye, and ascended, high up in the mountains, to Bel Air where I dined and slept.

26th Mr. Forester took me a beautiful ride through an intricate path by Dumfarslane, Grand Bras, Mount Souci, and other places, over several rivers, to Balthazar, where



we parted, as I wished to cross the Grand River at the ford there, at this time about four or five feet in depth, though it must be much more than that in the rainy season. The river itself is about twelve feet in depth ; I ascended to the Grand Etang procured a cup of coffee and then, descended towards Georgetown to fulfil an engagement to dine with the Governor. I believe I have before stated that Mount St. Catherine is the highest land in this island, which is exceedingly mountainous ; it towers above the level of the sea, nearly three thousand feet. Next in consequence is Morne Quacca, rising two thousand five hundred, whilst Morne des Sauteurs extends only one hundred feet, which is less than Richmond Heights. The valleys abound with rivulets which afford the essential advantage of establishing water mills upon the plantations of sugar, always to be preferred to steam engines. Of wind and cattle mills there are comparatively few.

The eastern part of Grenada is the most

level and productive, particularly from the river Duquesne to that of Great Bacolet. The rivers are not navigable excepting for a canoe or small boat, in some of the deep parts, though from the title of great, being prefixed to many of them, it would be natural to suppose them of importance. Excepting scorpions and centipedes, whose bite is not worse than the sting of a wasp, no venomous reptiles or insects are seen. Since my visit, a panic has seized the West Indian colonies ; and Grenada has suffered with the rest, but the estimate of the produce of the year 1843, shows no great decrease.

The earthquake of February the 8th though felt, destroyed no property in this island.

Grenada is divided into seven parishes called, St. Andrew, St. David, St. George, St. John, St. Mark, St. Patrick, and the Island of Cariacou. I would advise travellers to chose the months of December, January, and February, for their excursions, it being so much cooler at that, than at other seasons.

I give this advice only in case of its being tolerably dry weather, in heavy rains the rivers overflow and render journeying into the interior very unpleasant, though generally speaking there is nothing to be apprehended between the months of December and May.

Another recommendation for the tourist, is to take Labat's work, read his account of the early history of this lovely island, compare his description of what it was in his time with the present. See how his wishes have been fulfilled. What he calls a pond is now a safe harbour for vessels. George Town has risen into consequence, in appearance; the harbour is well fortified, and this has been done principally since it became a British Colony.

Surely after having improved and raised the West India settlements to a state of comparative civilization, England will not forsake her children; surely she will continue the protecting hand which has done so much for them; at any rate let her still lead on to further improvement, and never with-

draw her countenance till the colonists can, in arts, manufactures, and commerce, do for themselves.

Grenada has flourished, but its commerce has declined ; estates, once valuable, have been sold at a ruinous loss to the owners ; and it is melancholy to see the empty stores and warehouses on the quay ; why this is, one more skilled in commercial statistics than I am, must determine, I can but hope brighter days are to come, when the sun of prosperity will again shine on the lovely mountains and valleys of Grenada, and make it as rich in civilization and trade as it is in the beauties of nature, when it will be estimated, not for the Italian softness of its scenery, but regarded as a pearl of great value amongst the Antilles.

# TORTOLA .

## CHAPTER I.

TORTOLA is different in appearance to any of the other Colonies, being an island of mountains ; on the summits of several, are large table lands well cultivated, but the ascent is tedious, and at times dangerous ; leading by narrow, winding pathways, up steep, abrupt precipices.

The town is small, and stands on a level, but confined space of a ground below moun-

tains. Of its buildings and inhabitants very little can be said ; there is nothing in the former to attract the attention of the traveller, who, may find amusement for a short time in rambling amongst the narrow valleys, and enjoying the views from the tops of the mountains but who must expect no society from people who live such secluded lives ; cultivating their own fruits and vegetables, feeding a few sheep and poultry, fishing, or catching the wild ducks which abound on all the mountain lakes, in the island. Yet Tortola can boast its Mount St. Bernhard, from the summit of which you obtain a fine view of the opposite Island of St. John, a Danish colony.

I doubt whether this little island will ever rise beyond its present excellence, it is not adapted for colonization, and can be of but little value as a possession unless for a fortification.

The bay is large, with deep water, is well sheltered, and affords good anchorage. Many places near the town are pointed out as hav-

ing formerly been the resort of Pirates, and certainly the island is well suited, to become the resort and hiding place of such lawless plunderers.

On a neighbouring island, called Virgin Gorda ; there are natural baths of sea water, sheltered by rocks, between which the sun does not penetrate ; there is likewise a valuable copper mine, said to have yielded, a few years, sixty per cent., of ore from the material extracted from it.

The earthquake of 1843, was but slightly felt in Tortola.

## SANTA CRUZ OR SAINT CROIX.

### CHAPTER I.

IF St. Thomas can boast of its commerce, its sister island can advance as great a claim to agricultural greatness ; though thirteen or fourteen years have elapsed since I visited either, I have a perfect recollection of my surprise at the goodness of the roads in Santa Cruz, and how I, laughingly, compared the drive from the capital, on the eastern side, to a town on the western, a distance of thir-



teen miles, to Regent street without pavement ; in lieu of shops filled with the costly, and gay colored merchandize of the former, there is, on either side, this broad, firm, smooth road, along the whole extent, fine estates, elegant houses attached to them, with avenues of handsome, tall, evergreen trees in front ; and on many of these estates are pretty, simple looking chapels. Then the negro huts or cottages, belonging to each domain are all so admirably arranged in form of regular streets, that it makes one forget they are the habitations of slaves, and fancy them separate, rural looking hamlets scattered over the fertile lands to be seen throughout the island.

In the principal town there are good boarding houses, and large stores and warehouses, but as no commerce is carried on it is very quiet.

When I visited this colony I was pleased at the mild treatment observed towards the slaves, still I marvelled that the example of Great Britain had not been followed in the

Danish Islands, particularly as most of the plantations belong to the King of Denmark ; but when I next visit this pretty rural spot freedom will perhaps have been granted ; for as I am writing, a rumour is prevalent that the Government of Denmark is taking steps for the abolition of slavery in its colonies.

# NEVIS.

## CHAPTER I.

NEVIS, unlike most of the other West India islands, appears as you approach, one vast, cone-like mountain rising from the sea ; but this mountain is beautifully green, well cultivated and ornamented with houses, and some of the prettiest churches imaginable ; or, perhaps, I should say that these churches, houses, &c. all look as if planned and placed in their different situations by the hand of a

skilful landscape painter. There is nothing grand or sublime, but perfect loveliness reigns every where, whilst above all this cheerful, calm scenery, is beheld a complete forest of evergreens looking like a coronet on the brow of beauty.

At the foot of the mountain, and extending in a graceful curve along the wide bay, is Charlestown, of tolerable size, gay, and populous. The Court with a large square in front, is admirably arranged, the church is small, but has a pretty burial ground embellished with a number of evergreens and enclosed within a good wall.

About half a mile from the town are natural warm springs, from which two baths have been formed, the larger containing water so hot that few persons could remain immersed more than a minute ; but it is perfectly clear and bright, and when cooled, in the air, is generally preferred to any other water for drinking. There is a spacious establishment for invalids near the springs, constructed under the direction of a gentleman, and

capable of containing forty persons who, on obtaining a medical certificate can have accommodation there for themselves and servant. The apartments are comfortable a winding staircase leads up to the roof whence is a view of the Islands of Antigua, Montserrat, and St. Christopher.

Nevis is quite as pretty in the interior as a first appearance would lead you to suppose. A good bridle path will allow you to cross the mountain, whilst a carriage road leads nearly round the island. Brooks and running streams intersect and enrich the pasture lands, upon which cattle of various kinds are seen grazing.

In one of my excursions I saw a banyan tree exactly similar to those met with in India : a perfect picture, and at a distance, making the gazer imagine he beholds some fancy pagoda or summer house,

Such was the appearance of Nevis when I visited it, but since that time earthquakes, and conflagration have done their usual mischief; the last visitation destroyed the

Court House entirely, and so shook the bath establishment that a great part fell in. All the stone buildings suffered materially, the streets were covered with ruins, and the markets became places of rubbish,

In many parts the earth was rent open, to the extent of two or three inches ; cliffs were hurled down, and the whole island presented a scene of desolation.

How melancholy to think of this lovely spot under such disastrous circumstances ; but 'tis the will of a Providence wiser than we are, so let us not murmur at such afflictions, let us hope that when next we visit Nevis it may look as green and cheerful as of yore.

## ST. THOMAS.

### CHAPTER I.

THE passage from Tortola to St. Thomas, leads through a narrow channel between the former island, and that of St. John, the vessel being close to the two shores nearly all the way. There is no monotony in the transit, therefore the voyager does not come wearied to the end of his journey, but is always on deck, (or he displays very bad taste) to catch

the first glance of the forest covered mountains. Beautiful as is Nevis, rising, with the most graceful curve, out of the sea, and piercing a fleecy mass of clouds, which sleep for ever round its summit, it can scarcely be preferred to St. Thomas.\* The town bursts upon the sight with the appearance of three lofty pyramids, the towering mountains elevated far above, behind, and the shore in front washed by the waves of such an extensive harbour and deep water, that vessels sail in and anchor close to the quay, and merchants' stores.

The town spreads over a considerable extent of ground, with an innumerable number of narrow streets containing some well built houses and public buildings.

A lover of bustle and change would prefer this to any of the islands, for it is a free

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\* For a correct idea of the beauty of St. Thomas I refer all readers to the drawing lately made of it by Lieut. Bellairs R. N. and published by Hulmandel and Co. Great Marlborough St. London.



port, and therefore vessels from all parts are seen in the harbour, persons of all nations in the streets, and languages of every kind heard in the hotels and public places ; whilst the frequent visits of steam ships belonging to the Royal, Mail, Steam Company, contribute not a little to the general cheerfulness ; these visits being not merely to deposit letter bags &c. but to take in a supply of coals from the depot established for that purpose.

The shops display wares of every description. There may be found something to supply every want, to satisfy every fancy. Altogether St. Thomas is a lively island, and I care not how soon the chances of military duties cause me to re-visit its shores.

## A N T I G U A .

### CHAPTER. I.

This is without exception, the prettiest little harbour I ever saw ; the extreme neatness of the docks, the busy village which has grown up in their vicinity, the range of hills of various shapes, and colours, which encircle the island sides, and the rocky ridge which frowns over the mouth, with its Union, and cannons, and ramparts, present such a combination of tropical beauty, and English style

and spirit as I never saw elsewhere in the West Indies." Thus wrote M. Coleridge, of Antigua in 1824 or 25, and truly too ; for a visit to its towns, green uplands, and planters' houses recalling the picture of the homesteads of old England, would form an event in a life always to be thought on with pleasure. But how sadly has the above bright picture been destroyed. In 1843 another author writes, describing the effects of the earthquake.

"The noble dock-yard, the pride of the Caribbee Islands—has fallen a prey to *its influence*. The excellent wharfs are all racked and rent : in some places they have sunk down to the margin of the sea ; in others they are literally heaved up, forming an appearance as undulating as the waves of the great deep. The earth is completely ploughed up, and in some parts deep and broad fissures, strongly impregnated with sulphur, open their yawning mouths, to the horror of the looker on : indeed, the whole yard was traversed, and counter-traversed, with these

appalling marks—these awful warnings of Omnipotency. The massy stone or brick buildings are shivered on all sides. The officers' quarters are severely rent ; the cordage stores, &c. are cracked from top to bottom ; the fine, capacious cisterns are nearly all ruined ; the superintendent's office, &c. is also much impaired and rent. The stone platform which runs along the commissioners' room, is moved out of its place, and the flag pavement beneath wrested up. The guard-house and midshipmen's quarters are very much destroyed. The stone building near presents a most awful appearance ; one side of it has sunk some depth into the ground, and the part of the wharf alongside, is so fearfully rent that no one has ventured to cross it. In the boat-house, the massy, stone, circular pillars which support the shed, measuring at least twelve feet in circumference, are cracked and rent—one of them is entirely down, and many of the others very nearly so. The paint stores, blacksmiths' shop, &c. are but tottering walls. The sig-

nal post was seen to move distinctly backwards and forwards from the violence of the shock, and the long line of cliffs, and stone walls, that top the hill at the back of the yard, are split and shivered in all directions. St. Helena, as the first erected wharf is termed, and alongside of which the largest ship that frequents these seas can anchor, is also very much injured, and its stone buildings destroyed. At Fort Berkely, entrance of the harbour, the walls are overthrown. It has been incorrectly stated, that this entrance to the dock-yard had been obstructed by the fallen rocks; on the contrary, the water is now deeper than before the earthquake. The Superintendent of the Dock-yard, estimates the damage at between £. 20,000, to £. 30,000.

At the Ridge, the terrible effects of the earthquake have been felt. The stone stores and barracks are either altogether down, or so severely rent that they are considered unsafe, and the privates are accommodated under tents, erected in the vicinity. The

small stone building situated at the utmost point of Shirley Heights for the accommodation of the Signal man, fell at the commencement of the shock. The inmates, at the time of this awful convulsion of nature, were two men, who immediately rushed out, leaving behind them, in their consternation, a baby of four months old. They were scarcely without the door when the walls fell, burying, beneath their ruins, the unfortunate infant. As the shock passed away, the horror-stricken father remembered his child ; and calling to his assistance some of his friends, they commenced digging away the rubbish, in the hopes of recovering the body. As they proceeded in their task, a faint cry was heard, and upon carefully removing the stones, the poor little creature was found lying in perfect safety, with the exception of a slight scratch upon its cheek, and thus restored to the arms of its delighted parent. A small piece of wood had fallen across it in such a manner as to form a kind of arch, and thus hindered the stones from crushing its

tender frame. Our journey to the capital was one of fearful interest. Upon gaining Falmouth, the town presented a mass of ruins.

The pretty parsonage, is no more ; the parochial school-room, a heap of broken masonry ; St. Paul's church levelled with the ground ; and its very tombs in the churchyard rent open, as if the last great day was come. There was a corpse to be interred in this burial place upon the day of the earthquake ; but so alarming was the commotion, that it was with difficulty the grave-diggers could be prevailed upon to open the ground.

Monks Hill, erected into fortifications in 1705, has felt the direful influence : its stupendous ramparts are cracked and shivered, and its very flag-staff has bowed beneath the shock. In one part of the road, a huge rock is lifted out of the earth, where it has reposed for centuries, and is hurled to the opposite side ; while its apparently repellent surface is cracked in all directions. As we passed the several estates, how different was the scene to what they used to present !

Instead of the cheerful looking mills with their white sails going briskly round in the breeze, or the hum of human voices ; the merry shout and jocund laugh ; or the curling smoke from the boiling house ; or the pleasant dwellings of the manager or proprietor—in most instances, nothing was to be seen, but a heap of ruins ; nothing to be heard, but the solitary bleat of a sheep, or the melancholy low of oxen.

At the Capital, the Cathedral is rent and torn in a fearful manner. In some parts the walls are completely down, bearing with them the grand glass windows ; in others, they are cracked and splintered ; and the cupola of the tower has been pulled down in order to guard against accidents. The tombs in the churchyard are many of them torn up ; while others are split into four pieces. The new Scotch Kirk, which had not been completely perished, has also met with severe injury. The new Ebenezer Chapel, belonging to the Wesleyans, erected in 1837, is said to be entirely ruined.



The Court House, erected in 1847, has also fallen a prey to the earthquake—it is shattered in a dreadful manner, and is supposed to be unsafe. The Police-office (formerly the old Jail) is also ruined, and in an unsafe condition. The Arsenal much impaired. The new Jail and Barracks, at the head of the town, are also fearfully dilapidated. The Register-office, Treasurer's-office, Governor's, Secretary's-office (just erected), Colonial Bank, &c., are all much injured. The Antigua Library is also greatly dilapidated. The Custom House is one scene of destruction.\*

This is a lamentable account for those who remember Antigua in its prosperity ; but a Wise Providence ordered the dispensation, and we must meekly bow in submission to His decrees. This would be a most valuable

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\* Thus in the course of eight years has this Island been afflicted with three awful calamities, either of which might be considered of an overwhelming nature. A hurricane in 1837 ; a conflagration in 1841, the damage occasioned by which was estimated at £250,000 sterling, and the earthquake of 1843.

possession if favored with rivers, streams, and rivulets like the neighbouring islands ; but a long, continued dry season is often attended with disastrous consequences to the inhabitants ; yet to gaze from Monk's Hill, nearly in the centre, upon the soft green vales, surrounding, wooded hills, luxuriant canes, Indian and Guinea corn, waving within its own limits, and resembling so many fields of wheat, just before an English harvest ; no one could suspect the principal part of the water for the use of the people, is collected in tanks. Such however, is the case, and no wonder almost the only spring in the island, which rises at some little distance from the declivity on Fig tree hill, is so much thought of. In flowers no island is more luxuriant, each hedgerow is a gay parterre, and the brilliant blossoms are so mingled that a choice is difficult ; twining up the tall stems of the trees, are the more fragile, their tender branches seeming to ask protection, whilst the feathery boughs above bend over them as if to gaze upon their loveliness.

St. John the principal town of Antigua is fourteen miles from the dockyard, and lying in a fertile district. The pretty village of Falmouth is near the English harbour, and within a short distance is Dows Hill, a residence of the Governor. Cedar hill is a delightful spot to spend a life in, and surely no one would visit Antigua, at least not the curious in relics, without visiting the house of the president of the council, to gaze on the original grant by Charles the First, framed and placed over the door of the dining room. But the most romantic spot, and one to make a lasting impression on the mind of the lover of the picturesque, is Figtree Hill ; truly it is a zigzag path, but with clefts covered with forests trees, the creeks, bays, and coves, the cattle in the pastures, with the sea beyond, it is a descent of beauty ; each step presenting some new feature and each claiming to be admired.

The Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy has just cause to be proud of his little territory, and still greater cause have the Antiguans to

be proud of their Governor. Nor must a tribute of respect be withheld from his amiable lady, whose affability, cheerfulness, and goodness, endear her to all within the circle of her influence. The exertions of the former, after the last dreadful earthquake, cannot be too highly appreciated, and many a prayer, inspired by gratitude, for sympathy and gentle assistance, has been offered to Heaven for the latter.

## DOMINICA 1841.

### CHAPTER I.

We arrived off Morne Espagnol, on the 21st of July, early in the morning, the weather was rainy, and the wind, what little we had, variable ; but notwithstanding these disagreeables, we anchored in Roseau Bay, about four p.m.

This island is extremely mountainous, which makes the scenery beautifully grand : the highest land is estimated to be 5,300

feet above the sea ; the rivers are rather numerous, and one called Layou, navigable to some distance. Reports were, for some-time, in circulation throughout the colonies, that almost all the estates, habitations, plantations, *haciendas*, or *emplacemens*, as they are separately distinguished by the English, French, Dutch, and Spaniards, had been abandoned since the final emancipation of the slaves ; but I saw not one deserted, all remained as before that event. If sugar and coffee are not cultivated in such profusion as formerly, that may perhaps be attributable to the lowness of the wages, which, according to some are not more than eightpence per day each labourer, certainly not to the desertion of the negros.

The town of Roseau is considerably improved lately, though now not sufficiently cheerful looking to induce a lengthened stay ; but the grass has disappeared from the streets, and it altogether looks cleaner. Perhaps it is, Morne Bruce is so inviting, that, eager to inhale the breeze and view the vast extent of

landscape from the table land, occupied by the garrison, the town feels hot ; so though the tamarind offers its luscious fruit, and the Mangroves, a cool retreat, few persons stay there beyond the passing hour.

But Morne Bruce, and its scenery, the lovely winding valley, with its river, &c., have been sketched by too masterly a hand to require any further eulogy.

The other military stations are Fort Young, in the town, over the sea, Prince Rupert's, thirty miles from Roseau, and Scott's Head a signal, and convalescent post, about ten miles distant, a long a bad road, rendered even dangerous by winding under high banks and rocks, from which masses often fall, in sudden gales, which are of frequent occurrence on that coast. The better plan is to proceed thither by boat.

To ride to Prince Rupert's is worse, for however romantic the scenery, the many deep rivers, and the pass of the Lion's Mouth, render it perillous and fatiguing.

The latter is too narrow, in one part, to

admit of more than one horseman, whilst the least deviation from the path would plunge the traveller, over an awful precipice, on either side ; a horse must be very tractable, even to be led over such a road.

Certainly if you choose the sea passage, you are liable to squalls, with heavy waves ; but then the Dominica boatmen are experienced and skilful, intrepid, and good humoured ; and entertain you with a kind of improvisatoire singing in the French language ; the subject, some incident, relative to persons, that has come under their observation.

One boat's crew used to sing a chorus in praise of General, Sir Murray Macgregor, once governor of Dominica, and of his goodness to them, when they conveyed him to and from Prince Rupert's ; distributing to them with his own hands, portions of the refreshment, he had ordered to be put on board, for the passage ; the strain swelling in tone, and the gestures becoming more emphatic, as they particularized a large



round of beef and meat pie ; again sounding still more joyous as they described the money he gave them ; and then bursting into gladness and thankfulness, for his escape from one of the falling masses, whilst proceeding to his country residence ; the General's surname finishing each stanza ; and all this ending in a wail of sorrow for his departure from the colony, an event that *Leur fit couler des larmes, qu'ils ne cessaient deploré*. Alas ! if these good people felt such profound regret at the departure of the General, to a more important government, how much would they grieve, did they know of his demise which took place in this year (1841), at Barbados !

These boat songs convey the sentiments, without regard to rhyme, or regularity of verse, but the effect of the melody on the water gliding along such a coast is very pleasing.

The celebrating by song the acts of a bishop, or, any person of consequence, is

practised by the boatmen in many of the islands.

Prince Rupert's Station is not a healthy place, and except in cases of emergency, European soldiers are not sent there; this insalubrity is occasioned by a swamp beneath the garrison. The bay is of great extent under the heights, on which stand the barracks; whilst behind rise the two mountains called Cabrites, and from their summits you overlook the opposite shore of Guadaloupe, and the small town of Grande Ance, at the further end of the bay.

On the top of one of the mountains of this island, encircled by others still more lofty, there *is said to be* a lake of fresh water covering a space of several acres; and in some places unfathomable. I made no attempt to discover the reality of the assertion, beyond enquiries, which were unsatisfactory; nor did I go in quest of the gold mine, which, some hundred and forty five years since, was said to exist, but has not yet been

discovered. Perhaps the most interesting object I visited in this island, was the Soufriere, near Scott's Head; to which a good bridle road leads from the landing place of the estate, on which it is situated, till you arrive at a spot, where the path is nearly intersected by a rivulet of natural hot water, perfectly clear and sweet, and of a temperature similar to that on the Pitons du Fort Royal, 31° Raumur; probably it is much hotter at the source.

Soon after passing this stream you arrive at the surface, consisting of several hillocks or mounds with fire and smoke issuing from their tops. The earth is arid and mixed with sulphur, which also strongly impregnates the air. Much sulphur has been sent thence, to England, hitherto without any great advantage to the owners but with the new apparatus at that time expected to arrive, profit may follow, and this soufriere become a source of wealth to Dominica. Londoners boast of their white bait, and flock in crowds to Greenwich, to eat them; but in these

days of quick travelling it would repay an epicure to cross the Atlantic and visit Dominica for the purpose of eating Triti or Treetree, a small and delicate fish—generally caught, after heavy rain, by drawing a table cloth through the rivulets. They are esteemed a great delicacy, and generally made into fritters.

The mountain cabbage grows to a greater height in Bardados than in any of the colonies, but the ferns of Dominica may challenge the world : they are really large trees, and would astonish an Englishman who had only seen those upon the heaths in his own country ; yet these ferns are as green and as delicate in appearance as the eye can rest on. The plantains two are beautiful, but the bois immortel is not to be compared to those of Trinidad. The Galba is here planted for shade, and is very beautiful, but the bois immortel recalls the grandeur, and fertile plantations of Las Cuevas, and La Reconnaissance, and I love to gaze on its graceful loveliness. The numerous springs and rivulets of Domi-

nica, are no doubt the cause of the bright green appearance of the vegetation, and its luxuriance; but in the wet months they render the rambling amongst the vales, damp and unwholesome.

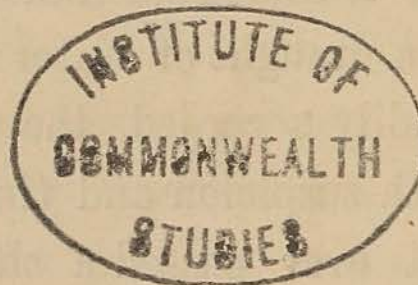
In one part of the island a few of the Caribs still have a settlement, but notwithstanding the great age to which they live, their number gradually diminishes.

Dwelling on the western part of the island, and holding little or no communion with the other inhabitants, and almost the last remnant of the aborigines, they must be interesting to the stranger, who would scarcely be satisfied to depart till he had endeavoured to make himself familiar and at home amongst them. This is somewhat difficult to effect, for though a draught of water or a luscious fruit, is readily accorded, the white man is regarded with suspicion and timidity.

Who, that ever passed a short time at Dominica, but wished to return; aye, again and again, if only to gaze on its mountains; but our actions are not at our own disposal—

spite of my wish to linger, on the 22nd of July, I was at sea in the steam vessel, Firefly, sailing along the coast St. Lucia.

THE END OF VOL. I.



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