

A RESIDENCE  
IN THE  
WEST INDIES AND AMERICA.

A  
SOLDIER'S RECOLLECTIONS  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES AND AMERICA,

WITH A NARRATIVE OF THE EXPEDITION TO THE  
ISLAND OF WALCHEREN :

BY LIEUT. COL. ST. CLAIR.

'Twas strange : in youth, all action and all life,  
Burning for pleasure, not averse from strife,  
Woman — the Field — the Ocean — all that gave  
Promise of gladness — peril of a grave —  
In turn I tried. BYRON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

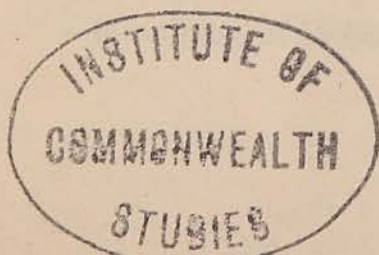
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CHAPTER I.

The Essequibo River—Military Post—Islands—Settlement of Essequibo—Discontent of the Indians near the Colony—A Military Detachment sent thither from Demerara—The Author sets out with the Governor to visit Essequibo—Perica Plantation—The Plantation Bird—The Mocking Bird—The cultivated Cabbage-Palm Tree—Baboons—Military Recollections—Voyage up the Essequibo—The Town—Nature of the Soil.

THE Essequibo river runs about twelve miles to leeward of the Demerara. The colony of that name commences at the Bonesique creek, and is bounded on the west by a supposed line which divides the Spanish settlement of Oronoko from the English posses-

sions. This stream is upwards of twenty miles in breadth at its mouth, and is the finest river in possession of the English in this part of the world.

The cultivation along the coast extends a little to leeward of the Pomeron river; and, on its banks, at a short distance from the sea, is situated a strong military post, containing a block-house, at present commanded by Lieutenant Cook, of the 4th West India Regiment. This fort is separated from the Spanish possessions on the banks of the Oronoko by an extensive space of wild and savage country; but, notwithstanding this barrier, the Spaniards distress and annoy the planters on the leeward coast and their coasting vessels exceedingly, having a number of small boats and canoes fitted out and numerously manned with Negroes, Indians, and runaway slaves, who pass from these colonies into the Columbian government; and many of these individuals have shown them the way to their masters' estates, which have been plundered

and their boats loaded with produce seized and carried into the Oronoko.

There are four fine cultivated islands within the mouth of this river, which yield the finest crops of cotton and sugar: they are called Walkiman, Liguan, Vakin, or Hog Island, and Tiger Island.

Liguan was formerly the sole property of a Dr. Martinie from Holland, who disposed of half of it for the trifling sum of twenty-five florins, which in those days was not more than sufficient to purchase one Negro. Shortly afterwards this land increased a little in value by the arrival of settlers from Europe, and he was foolish enough to dispose of the other half for one hundred and twenty florins. This island is at present divided into many fine productive estates, every one of which is a fortune in itself; and at this moment they are clearing to their possessors at least £10,000 per annum. The son of this doctor now resides on the opposite coast, on a small lot of ground, and no doubt fre-

quently laments the folly committed by his father.

Fort Island is situated about fifteen miles above these, and twenty from the sea; and, owing to this series of obstructions in the current of the river, many banks of mud are formed, and, running out to sea, cause the navigation to be exceedingly difficult and dangerous: for this reason, the Demerara is much more convenient for trade, and consequently is quite the Thames of this part of the world.

The Essequibo was the first of these rivers upon which the Europeans settled; and when this district was raised to a government, the spot chosen for the seat of authority was about fifty miles from its entrance; but this situation was soon found to be inconvenient, on account of its distance from the sea, and the difficulty experienced by vessels in sailing up to the settlement, owing to the strong currents of these rivers, to which I have already adverted. The seat of government was

therefore soon removed lower down to Fort Island, only twenty miles from the sea ; and, since the cession of Dutch Guiana to the English in 1796, the commandeur is the chief personage residing in this colony ; he acts under the lieutenant-governor of Demerara. The Essequibo courts are held in Fort Island, the commandeur sitting as president.

In November, 1807, strong suspicions of a revolt among the Indians of the interior against the Whites, or Europeans, were entertained. Great bodies of these wild people had been observed crossing different rivers towards the Essequibo ; and it was supposed that some tribes from Columbia, or, as they are here called, Spanish Indians, had joined them, and were urging the quiet Arrawakas to commit depredations on us for the sake of plunder. It was likewise reported to Colonel Nicholson by the post-holder up the Demerara, whose duty I have already stated it to be to watch the movements of the savages, that they had all of them deserted their wig-



wams, or huts, on the banks of this river, and had proceeded in great numbers, with all their families, towards the Essequibo. Dispatches were received daily by the acting governor from the commandeur of Essequibo, describing the great alarm prevailing among the planters on the banks and islands of this colony, in consequence of the arrival of information that the post-holder up this river had been attacked, and that the inhabitants of one or two settlements had also been surprised, and some of them put to death. It was further intimated that great fears were entertained, lest with the force which the Indians had collected they might risk an attack on Fort Island, which was now entirely defenceless, being without arms, ammunition, or troops to defend it.

Though the number of these wild people was daily increasing, and their horrid blasts of war re-echoed through the woods, it was impossible to divine the cause of the discontent which had been excited among them—

more particularly as they had hitherto constantly conducted themselves towards the Whites as the most harmless and friendly race of beings ever met with. In consequence, however, of so many alarming reports, the acting lieutenant-governor thought proper to send, for the defence of Fort Island, a military party composed of detachments from the Royal Regiment and 4th West India Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Baillie of the Royals, with muskets and ammunition sufficient to arm the white inhabitants in case of necessity.

We were kept nearly a fortnight in suspense, when intelligence was brought that the Indians had retired into the interior; and it was supposed, from the little information which had been collected respecting them, and some complaints which had been made, that their anger and discontent had been caused by the free coloured people, residing on the banks of the Essequibo, having defrauded them, and detained their young chil-

dren as slaves. The procedure charged in this last accusation would have been a direct violation of the laws of these colonies, which are particularly strict on this head; because it is to the interest of our government to reconcile these people to our possession of their lands, and conducive to our peace and comfort to keep on amicable terms with them. Colonel Nicholson therefore determined to make a journey in person up this river, to visit the different settlements, and, if possible, to discover the offenders and give redress to the injured Indians.

On the 22d of November, 1807, we left Stabroek, and slept at Perica point, on the east bank of the Essequibo river. This is a sugar plantation, which possesses an advantage enjoyed by few estates on this continent, that of having a fresh-water creek running through the middle of it, upon which is erected an excellent water-mill for squeezing the juice from the canes; and the quantity produced in ten hours is so great that the estate cannot grow

sufficient to keep the mill constantly employed during the period in which the cane ripens ; whilst the mills in the neighbourhood, turned either by the wind or by cattle, can scarcely work up the produce of the plantations to which they belong.

The 23d of November we spent at Perica plantation ; and after breakfast I sauntered out with my gun in my hand and shot several beautiful birds, the trees being actually covered with them. Among these were the common plantain-bird, of a beautiful yellow and light blue colour. It is quite astonishing to observe in this country the partiality which many of the feathered tribe show to settling themselves under the protection of man. Providence has taught them that the ground is improved by the industry of man, yielding to his labour all the productions necessary to life ; these poor little birds accordingly congregate in thousands around his dwelling, and, without ceremony, help themselves to his choicest fruits, feeling the more secure the nearer

they are to him. The mocking-bird was also of the number: he is a little larger than the starling; his colours are black and yellow, his beak of the hue of sulphur; and though he courts the society of man he disdains to live upon his labour, for when he needs food he is to be seen flying to the neighbouring forest, where he subsists on the store of seeds and fruits which Nature has provided in abundance for the aërial tribes. When his appetite is satisfied, he again returns to the haunts of man, and willingly gives him, by his attention, the little tribute he owes for being permitted to live in peace and security near to his habitation. He takes up his station near the house; you may hear him for hours together pour forth a succession of imitative notes, his own song being short and sweet; but, should a sheep bleat in the neighbourhood, a puppy, a guinea-fowl, or common hen, interrupt him, he immediately stops short, and imitates them most accurately; and, if you observe his different gestures, you cannot but conclude that

he enjoys the sport. So well indeed does he take off any sound which strikes his ear, that he goes by no other name in these colonies than the mocking-bird.

In the vicinity of most planters' houses, which, like this, are protected from strong winds by the surrounding forest, may be seen many of the pendulous nests of these birds worked on and suspended from the outer branches of trees; and so little suspicious are they of receiving injury that I saw some so low down that with little trouble I looked into them.

I observed on this plantation a great number of the cultivated cabbage-tree, which, though of the palm species, differs materially in form from the wild cockarito of this country described in the preceding volume. I was afterwards informed by Mr. Wells that this variety was first sent to him from the islands, but he believed it to have been brought originally from Africa. Its stem or trunk was of a singular form, swelling out in the middle,

and of a brown colour for about half its height. Here it appeared to be joined to a bright green stem, from the upper part of which burst forth regular palm-leaves, drooping around it like ostrich-feathers. From the end of these leaves hung innumerable birds' nests, of various and most splendid plumage.

I had now extended my walk towards the back of the plantation, and on either hand was surrounded by tall sugar-canes, when suddenly a most hideous scream issued from them; and their tops, close to the road, all showed great agitation. Supposing it to proceed from monkeys, I hastened forward, with my gun cocked ready for action; and, the road turning sharply to the right, I was astonished to see about fifty large baboons, leaping a trench from the canes, and following each other into the forest in Indian file, all running in such a hurry as afterwards to put me in mind of the French *sauve qui peut* at the battle of Waterloo. The last had just gained the road, when I came up to

within forty paces. The opportunity tempted me, and I pulled the trigger, when I saw the unfortunate animal stagger forward and fall to the ground. This poor beast had been left by his companions, as our saying goes, for "the devil to take the hindmost;" and, while re-loading my piece, before approaching him, I really fancied myself somewhat of a fiend for having shot him. The creature lay extended on the road, bleeding to death: one hand supported his reclining body, while the other was applied to his wounded side. His heavy eyes, turned towards me, seemed to rebuke me for my cruelty, and I really felt so much, from his resemblance to human nature, that I would, if possible, have given the world to save his life. I now considered what was best to be done for him; to attempt to ease his pain was impossible, so long as he was capable of resisting the touch of a human hand; and I was afraid to approach him nearer than three or four paces, for if I did he immediately raised himself upright, and



looked as if determined to defend himself unto death. At length, with a heavy heart, I resolved, with a second pull of my trigger, at once to end his agony. Just as I was taking aim at his head, some sounds escaped his lips. I could do no more; but, turning on my heel, fled back to the planter's house as fast as my legs could carry me. As I approached it I saw my colonel and Mr. Wells sitting in the gallery.

I was now sick at heart with the sight of the dying beast, and, taking a seat near them, they both exclaimed on seeing me, "Halloo, youngster! what's the matter with you?"—"I have just shot a baboon," I exclaimed, "and may I be d—d if ever I shoot another!"—They both burst out into an immoderate fit of laughter, and, asking me where I left him, away they started to pick him up, and soon returned with a Negro carrying the unfortunate animal by the hind legs. They informed me that he was quite dead when they found him; and, laying him on the ground, I saw that he was

upwards of four feet in height. His colour was a reddish brown; he had a small tail, very thin towards the point, which indicated that he belonged to the monkey tribe, although in this country he was called a baboon. Mr. Wells ordered his slave to take him home and cook him, at which the fellow grinned with delight, and I begged him to bring me back the skin.

How many of my own dear countrymen have I since seen in Europe extended in the same manner, and suffering the same agonies which this poor animal did in South America! In 1809, when taking up a position for the siege of Flushing, on descending a sand-hill near the town, a cannon-ball struck my plaid, which was rolled on my back, and sent it into the air, killing the two men who were behind me. I waved my sword and called out, "Revenge, my boys!" In the Peninsula I have frequently seen my dearest and most esteemed friend fall by the enemy's fire; but spurring on my horse have only thought to

myself, " Poor fellow !—you are done for !" At Bayonne, my intimate friend and old commanding-officer, Major-General Hay, was killed by the first shot fired in that villanous sortie made upon us by the French general, Baron Thouvenot, on the 14th of April, 1814—I say villanous, because General Sir John Hope, who commanded the investing column of the allied army, had the day before sent in the Paris Gazette, containing the news of the abdication of Napoleon, and, therefore, bloodshed might have been saved. The 5th Caçadores, under my command, were drawn up by order from General Hay, behind a garden wall in the village of St. Etienne, and every thing was prepared to give the enemy a warm reception. The village church was in front and a little to my right ; when a single shot, followed by a volley from the French, attracted my attention. I advanced, to observe, if possible, upon what point their attack was made, when I beheld poor General Hay, in the arms of four soldiers of the Royal Regiment, coming out of

the churchyard, in which his body was destined in a few days to be laid. I directed the men to carry him to my room in the chateau, which was close by, but he breathed his last before reaching it.

I know that we military men are generally considered by the world like butchers, who, from becoming accustomed to witness the death of fellow-creatures, lose all feeling about it; but, my dear friends, you do not take into consideration that, as we become callous to the exposure of our own lives, so must we lose all estimation for the lives of our enemies. But I can assure you, I never saw one of my own countrymen hit without feeling for him from the bottom of my soul.

But, to return to South America. The next morning, the 24th of November, by eight o'clock, the colonel, myself, and servants, were seated on the deck of a small schooner, and steering our course up the right bank of the Essequibo River, in order to make Fort Island, which was scarcely

visible in the centre of it. I was struck with wonder at the size of this enormous river; and as we left the east bank behind, nothing was visible in front but a small speck of land which stood in the middle. By eleven o'clock we reached it, and, on looking back for the wooded country we had left only three hours before, no part was discernible by the eye but a line of upper branches of trees. On the governor's touching land a salute was fired from two petararoes, and Lieutenant Baillie's detachment presented arms. The commander, Mr. P. C. Ouckama, Mr. Rassin, fiscal, and Mr. de Grout, secretary of the colony of Essequibo, came down to the water's edge to receive him, and attended us up to the commander's house, where we had accommodation.

This settlement, or town, if it can be so called, consists of only a few scattered wooden houses, intermixed with Negro huts, placed on the east side of this island. To the right of the landing-place is situated Fort

Zelandia, a small regular work, consisting of four redoubts, with a large building occupying its centre: this is a kind of block-house built of brick, and from its parapet-roof troops may defend all approaches to it. This work was erected by the Dutch in 1766, as a place of security, in case of a revolt amongst the Negroes, or to defend themselves against the native Indians. Since 1803 this fort has been disarmed, and is now fast falling into decay.

The church is the next building of any consequence in the island; it is rather old, and in shape exactly resembles an old English barn. It is made to serve many purposes, being used as a church on Sundays, and during the rest of the week performing the part of court-house and vendue-office; where criminals are condemned to death, and honest men cheated of their money in the sale of their goods.

I found the land about this settlement to be the most barren spot I have yet seen in

this country. The soil consists entirely of a binding clay, which scarcely affords nourishment enough for the production of a short stunted grass; still the common bush-wood of this country grew in abundance, and a few trees of the palm species raised their feathery heads.

## CHAPTER II.

Departure from Essequibo—Groot Creek—The Aquiero—  
A Concert in the Forest—Vampyre-Bats—Precautions  
against them—Effects of their Bite—Their Habits—Indians  
—The Toucan—Excursion to visit the Indians—A Shooting  
Party—Awkward Situation of the Author and his Compa-  
nion—The Peccary, or Wild Hog—Acuteness of the In-  
dians in finding their Way through the Forests—The Three  
Brothers—The Negro Cap—Beautiful Scenery—Mon Repos  
—Howlings of Baboons.

ON the morning of Wednesday, the 25th of  
November, our little fleet, consisting of three  
schooners and four canoes, weighed anchor  
and stood up the river with a light breeze.  
The air, at least so we fancied, gave us all an  
appetite, and our party soon emptied the  
shell of a land-tortoise, which had been pre-  
viously prepared, and, being taken on board  
cold, made, with the assistance of an excellent  
cold leg of mutton, a good beginning, as we  
thought, to our adventures.



Our party now consisted of Mr. P. C. Ouckama, the commandeur; Rassin, the fiscal; de Grout, secretary; Messrs. Van Sertina, Moliere, Stall, de Fallois; Strahan, the garrison chaplain of Demerara, who joined us last evening; Lieutenant Baillie; and myself: and the servants and boatmen augmented our number to nearly fifty persons.

About eleven o'clock the heat was excessive, and we were still steering under Fort Island with light breezes; but, having now gained the upper point, a new prospect opened on us, and the wild impenetrable forest on the mainland far surpassed the tamer scene of cultivation which we had just left behind. Our intention on weighing anchor was to have proceeded as far as a lot of land belonging to Mr. de Grout, on which he had erected a shed for the accommodation of his wood-cutters; but, owing to the tide, which turned against us sooner than was expected, and a land-breeze setting in, it was soon agreed to make for the Groot Creek, on the

west bank of the river, where we arrived at half past two in the afternoon. As I had been appointed quarter-master-general, it was my duty to decide upon the quarters. There were three miserable empty huts, only just affording a covering to us, the sides being open. I soon selected the best for our party, which consisted of eleven persons, and Mynheer de Grout and Lieutenant Baillie undertook to superintend the cooking. In the other two huts I quartered off the Negro boatmen and servants.

By four o'clock we sat down to an excellent dinner, and, immediately after satisfying our appetites, I proposed to some of the party to penetrate into the forest with our guns. Off we started; but, owing to the thick underwood and thorny trees, which nearly tore our clothes to pieces, we were glad to return. The *aquiero*, a species of palm, is remarkable for the large size of the thorns which cover the stem and principal branches, being at least six inches long, black, and polished

like ebony. I have since seen in Rome some of the sacred thorns which are said to have formed our Saviour's crown on the day he was crucified. I recognized them to be the spines of the aquiero tree, and I have no doubt that they were sent from South America to impose on the credulity of Europeans. The tree also produces a fruit of the size of a walnut, consisting of a slimy substance. The stone which it contains resembles much a diminutive cocoa-nut, possessing all its hardness: these the Indians sometimes cut into rings to adorn the fingers of their wives and children, and they take a beautiful polish. The outer substance which covers the shell, when chewed for a short time, is sweet and pleasant to the taste, and hardly any animals or birds, natives of this country, will refuse it for food.

On rejoining our party we were surprised to hear the tinkling of a guitar, and found Mr. de Fallois amusing the company by playing with great sweetness and in a fine style of

execution. I now joined him as second in a pretty German air which he was singing, "Ach mein lieber Augustin," without knowing a word of the language; and we surprised our friends with the harmony we made. With Mr. Moliere's violin, Stall's clarinet, and my flute, we formed a little concert, which must have astonished the birds and animals in these solitary woods. Soon after sunset large vampyre-bats made their appearance, flying about us in great numbers, which alarmed us much, being under the necessity of sleeping in an open hut, in hammocks; of course, we had no means of protecting ourselves against their attacks. I superintended the hanging of the hammocks; and, choosing the centre place for my old colonel, I hung mine next to his in order to be near him. As soon as we had all retired, the Negroes kindled large fires round our hut at a certain distance, to keep off the bloodthirsty animals, and these had the desired effect, as the next morning I ascertained that not one of us had

been touched. This was not the case with Lieutenant Baillie's servant and one of the Negroes. The former came into our hut the next morning early, and set about his usual work, when we observed that his face was covered with clotted blood. "What is the matter with you, Parsons?" was the immediate exclamation, which frightened the poor fellow almost out of his senses; and, running to the creek, he washed his face in the stream. We then perceived the spot from which the blood was sucked, resembling an enormous bite of a horse-leech, at the very point of his nose, the animal having fanned him to sleep with its wings whilst sucking his blood. The poor Negro was more severely bitten in the heels, both of which were full of holes; and the unfortunate man could hardly stand upon his feet, so great was the quantity of blood which the vampyres had taken from him.

The vampyre, when its wings are extended, generally measures from twenty-six to thirty-

three inches from point to point; at least this was the size of those which I killed. These animals generally frequent hollow trees and old abandoned huts, and are often seen in the forest hanging to the branches of trees, head downwards, in clusters. There are two species of them in this country. The larger sucks men and other animals, the smaller principally birds, and they are, without exception, the most disgusting, horrid-looking creatures I have ever seen, having an extraordinary membrane rising from the nose, which added to their frightful appearance. I believe they do not live entirely on blood, as I have sometimes seen them in a moonlight night, fluttering round the branches of fruit trees, and even picked up fruit which they had caused to drop.

The beauty of the morning tempted us to bathe in the creek, and, though we found the water delightfully refreshing, I could not reconcile to my feelings the danger to which we exposed ourselves from attacks of the all-

devouring alligator and the dangerous fishes which inhabit these waters.

Perceiving a canoe of Indians coming down the creek, we hailed them, and the oldest of the number landed and walked up to us. We conducted him to our colonel, who asked him a few questions by means of an interpreter; and, learning that they resided in this creek, about an hour from the spot where we passed the night, we dismissed him with presents, and had the pleasure of seeing this poor savage divide them with his friends on gaining his canoe.

De Fallois, Strahan, and myself, taking our arms and ammunition, manned one of our canoes and pushed up this creek with the intention of returning the visit of the Indians; but, after paddling against the stream for two hours without discovering signs of a human being, we returned to our party in time for breakfast. During this excursion we saw great numbers of the toucan, or bill-bird, but shot very few of them,

owing to their shiness. One large monkey also made his appearance close to the water's edge; but, seeing our canoe, he darted like lightning into the thickest part of the bush.

We conjectured that this creek took its rise from a range of hills called the Blue Mountains, which were in sight, and ran from east to west between this river and the Oronoko, about fifty miles from the sea.

The toucan or bill-bird, called by the natives pia-poco, from its cry, is the most singular bird I have ever seen, and it puzzled me to conjecture for what purpose Nature had overloaded him with so enormous a bill. It cannot be for attacking the animated tribes, as he feeds only on fruits and seeds, which are in superabundance throughout the whole year in many parts of these forests; neither is it, I believe, for defence, as its substance is ill adapted to give or receive blows. In flying, the bird appears to be incommoded by this huge proboscis, or trunk, and its head seems as if borne down to the earth by its weight;



but the colours with which it is painted make amends, in some measure, for the awkward look of this appendage. Stripes of the brightest yellow and black upon brilliant scarlet strike the beholder with astonishment; and it is a curious circumstance that the bare skin round the eye and the plumage of the body should display all these colours of equal degrees of brightness. This bird flies by jerks, like our magpies in Europe, and is equally shy and cautious of a stranger. It is sometimes called by the Indians *bouradi*, which means nose.

In 1809, when marching before the enemy, one of my soldiers called out to his comrade—"Eyes right, Bob! what a nose!" I turned round, and beheld one of these birds in the shape of General S——: the only difference was in the colours of his beak.

Some Indians, hearing our guns and the noise we made at our bivouac, crossed the creek with a few baskets made in their neat manner to barter with us. From these

peaceable people we learned that they had been much alarmed by other tribes collecting in great numbers higher up the river, and had fled for security to the thickest wood within a short distance of this spot.

The tide being now strong down the river, Mr. de Fallois and myself determined to cross over to see them, and jumped into their canoe: they soon paddled us across the creek, but we found the landing very difficult owing to so much bush, and still more impenetrable was the forest. Following the two young men, however, we soon arrived, after a few scratches, with a little trouble, at seven small huts erected for their accommodation; but so thick and lofty was the surrounding wood that not one gleam of sun could penetrate to their dwellings. Their women, as usual with these people, were employed in making cassada-bread, and all who saw us set up a shout of horror at our discovering their habitation; when our guides stepped forward and pacified them. Upon inquiring if any

game was to be found in the neighbourhood, we learned that there was abundance; and, engaging three or four young men to accompany us, off we started in the hope of shooting something. Having drawn our shot and loaded with slugs, we walked for half an hour, toiling like bulls to get through the difficult thickets and underwood, being hardly able to keep pace with our guides; and we became so hot with fatigue that my friend, the Dutchman, and myself, were obliged to halt. At this moment we lost sight of our guides, who, from their anxiety and speed, seemed to have gained traces of some game. We found it impossible to follow them, for, like the keen fox-hound, fresh upon the scent, did these people vanish from our sight. "Well," said I, to my Dutch friend, "this is pleasant enough; here we are, two poor children lost in the woods!" "Ya," said he, "I tink we had better go home." But, on turning round, to our horror we discovered not a trace left of our advance. The bushes we had stepped

over had again sprung up and defied us, Johnny Newcomes, to retrace our steps. Turning to me, he looked with such a piteous countenance, that I could not refrain from bursting into a loud laugh. "Got for d—!" he exclaimed; "it's nicks good for laugh!" "Well," said I, "the only thing we can do is to rest quietly till our guides come back for us." And there he stood, uttering a variety of imprecations, calling out at intervals, as loud as he could bellow, "*Mati! mati!*"

While in this state of suspense, we heard a rustling noise at a short distance from us. "Donder und blitzen! vat is dat?" exclaimed the Dutchman, at the same time cocking his piece. The idea of a tiger—as the fate of my poor Pincher, up the Corantine, was still fresh in my memory—now made us both stand on our guard, when out sprang before us one of our Indian guides. He now put his finger to his lips, to betoken silence, and, beckoning us to follow, led us a few paces forward, and here pointed out a track which looked to me

like that left by a hare in passing through a hedge in England. He then placed us behind trees close to it, where we could plainly discern any animal passing. Our guns were cocked, and we had not been many minutes in this situation, when the Indian pointed with anxiety for us to look attentively. Presently the bushes before us began to tremble now and then; and suddenly an animal passed the spot. I had my eye upon him. Another followed. I fired, and the third fell. Almost at the same moment, Mr. de Fallois also discharged his gun, firing at the first or second. Both of us then rushed forward, and found two peccaries or wild hogs of this country, lying the one dead, the other dying, while the Indian dashed forward, and making one spring, with his club felled another to the ground. A general rush and a sort of grunting were now made by the rest of these animals, which instantly ran in all directions to hide themselves; and the other two Indians, coming up, gave us to understand that they

had seen this herd passing at the moment when they darted from us, in the hope of heading them, and were thus obliged to leave us by ourselves. We thanked them, and each hoisted a peccary on his back; but I was surprised to see the Indian who remained with us again leave us, and return with a second dead pig across his shoulders; and he made us understand that he had shot him the first with his arrow.

We now returned triumphantly to our canoe, and reached the schooner just as our friends were getting under way, having heard our shots, and supposing we should not be long in returning. We rewarded the Indians for the sport they had afforded us, and never were people more delighted than our party, on seeing the two peccaries handed on board.

It is astonishing with what speed and certainty these people travel through the immense forests of their country. When they intend going far into them, they break a small twig at every other step, as they walk on, and by

this means they are certain of finding their way back to the same spot. In case of a change of direction, they are shown which way to go, by looking at the north side of the large trees, they are shown which way to steer; as on that side their trunks are always covered with a short moss. Their acuteness in discovering the track of an animal and its species is also surprising; for, where a European could not distinguish the least sign of an impression, these native hunters, whose sport furnishes the means of existence, will follow the track of game to a prodigious distance, and tell to a nicety whether the impression be new or old: even the turn of a leaf is sufficient to serve them for an indication.

We again stood up the river, passing numbers of small islands, richly wooded with trees of resplendent verdure. The tide towards the afternoon began to slacken; and, not making much way against it, we prepared the canoes, being determined, if possible, to reach Mon Repos, the property of

M. de Grout, where we intended to have  
divided into four canoes, we soon lost sight  
of the schooner; and, as we advanced, the  
scenery increased in beauty. At length we  
came in sight of three small islands called The  
Three Brothers, from their resemblance to  
each other. There is a large piece of bare  
rock standing with its head about six feet  
above the water, and close to these islands,  
concerning which the natives entertain a most  
curious superstition. They believe that if  
any individual points at this rock, a heavy  
storm will immediately overtake him for his  
audacity; and, so thoroughly are they im-  
pressed with this idea, that if any of their  
party should point at it, they would imme-  
diately pull to shore, and hide themselves in  
the forest.

At three in the afternoon we made the  
Masserony river, entering the left bank of  
the Essequibo. It is nearly two miles in  
breadth at its mouth; and here the scenery



differed much from that which we had already passed. The back-ground was now diversified with hills; large rocks showed their scattered heads in all directions along the banks of the river; and the trees appeared more beautiful, from being less thickly clustered together. A heavy cloud, which for a short time had threatened us, broke over our heads, and drenched us to the skin: this visitation I took to be a punishment for having had the imprudence to defy the gods of this country, by pointing to the rock, or, as it is called, "The Negro Cap."

At five we landed at Mon Repos, and de Grout made immediate preparations for dinner. All of us were as hungry as hawks, not having tasted refreshment since breakfast; and we all assisted in unpacking and setting out the plates, knives, and forks, which we had brought with us in baskets. Night soon came on, and we were still at our repast, drawing cork after cork. After satisfying our hunger, the band was summoned to play. We four

musicians struck up a merry air, at which old Nicholson sprung on his legs, and, seizing old Ouckama, they both fell to footing it on the floor, the rest of the party shrieking with laughter. We had not seen one bat this evening; and our present hut, unlike our last night's quarters, was enclosed with manicol leaves: it was, therefore, easy for me to hang our hammocks in a row, as no one cared where he slept.

The frogs and large crapauds kept up a continual croaking during the whole night; some of us were much alarmed by the most dreadful howlings I ever heard, and we supposed that all the savage beasts of these wild regions had collected to welcome us to their haunts. At one moment it was the horrid roar of the tiger or jaguar, springing on his prey; anon it changed to the terrible and deep-toned growl of the same animal, when attacked by superior force; and, at last, it appeared to us that he was yielding his last breath beneath a mortal wound, the

sounds dying off in a long melancholy howl. Mr. de Grout now pacified us, by saying that these noises proceeded from the large baboons, which infest some parts of this forest, and that at night they always make these disagreeable howlings. Our second night up this river was not so agreeably passed as the first; for we found an open hut much more pleasant to sleep in than an inclosed one.

### CHAPTER III.

Batica Point—View from it—Potupatima Island—Wood-cutting Plantation—The Wallaba Tree—Tropical Birds—Grand Scenery of the Countries of the Torrid Zone—The Armadillo—Vanilla—The Bête-rouge—Settlement of Patarima—Its Mongrel Inhabitants—Alarming Reports concerning the Aguaya Indians—Deputies sent to ascertain the truth of them—Preparations for an Attack—Curious Fact relative to the Indians—Arrival at Patarima—The Lobba—Nocturnal Annoyances—Colonel Nicholson's Servant bitten by a Vampyre—Deceptive Turn in the River—Supposed Lake—Morning Scenery—Parrots and Cockatoos—Their Shiness of Fire-arms—Settlement of Billstains—The Eta Palm—The Owner of Billstains—Information concerning the Indians—Arrival at Koumaka Serima, a Settlement of Free Coloured People—The Paco—Preparations for ascending the Rapids—Proceedings of the Indians.

NEXT morning, Friday the 26th of November, we rose with the sun, and most of us immediately plunged into the river, which we found delightfully cool and refreshing. Some of our Negro sportsmen, who had the night before stopped the entrance of a small neighbouring creek, brought us in some fish : they were small and not remarkable, though

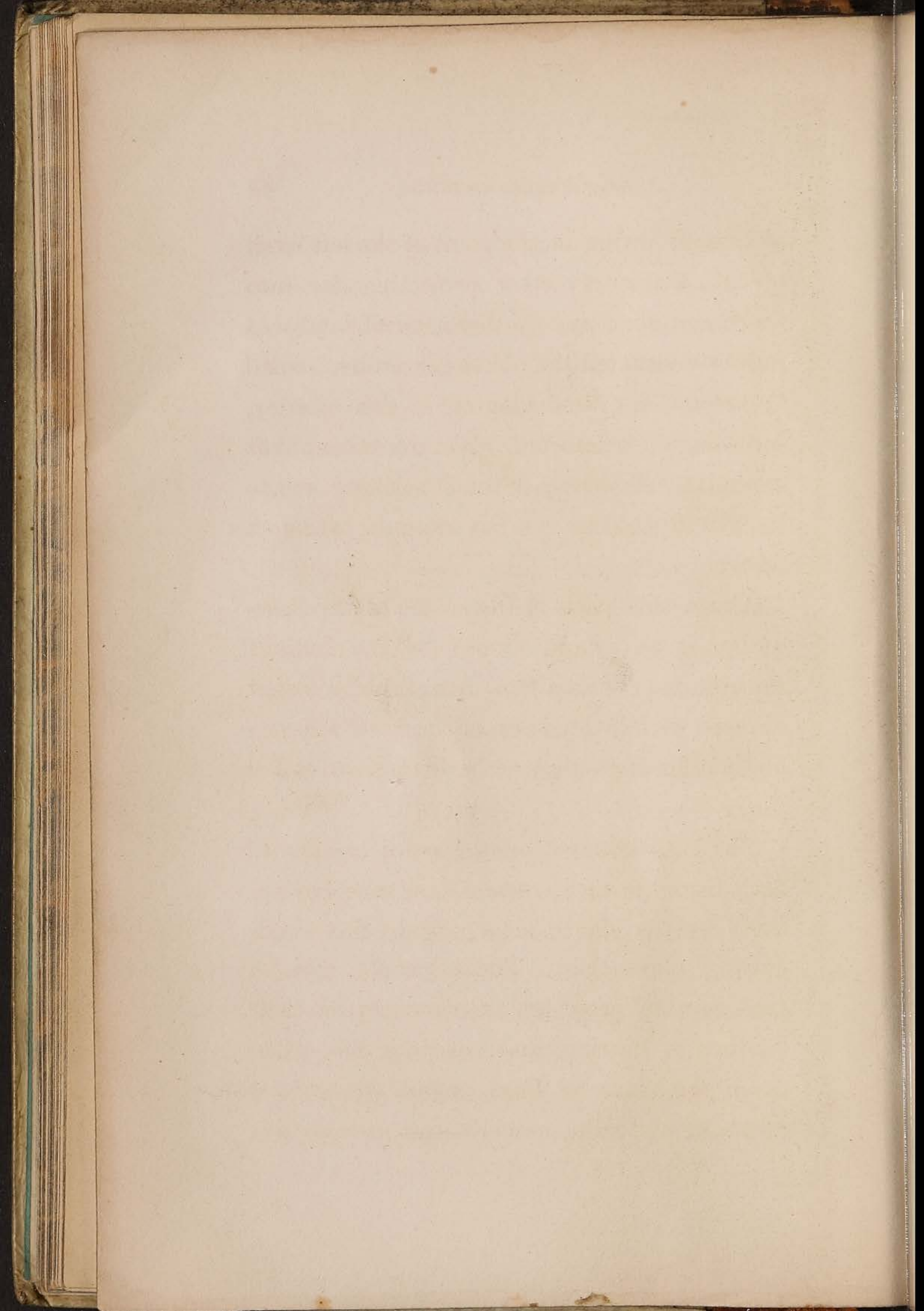
they proved an acceptable addition to our breakfast.

As I seized every opportunity of amusing myself with my pencil, Mr. de Grout accompanied me a short distance down the river in one of our canoes, with a couple of Negro paddlers, to *Batica Point*, a small settlement which we had passed the preceding day. It consisted of three small huts, placed on the top of a gentle declivity, which commands a fine view down the *Essequibo* river to the right hand, and up the *Masserony* to the left. These huts are situated immediately over the junction of these two large streams. On the right or opposite bank of the *Essequibo* are situated the remains of the first settlement formed by the Dutch in this river, as the seat of Government, but which was afterwards abandoned, as already stated. The old cultivated estates are now covered with wild bush and underwood.

From this point, looking down the river, the *Negro Cap* and *Three Brothers* are not



*W. B. Woodcut  
Printed by J. G. Smith*



to be seen, owing to the point of the left bank of the Masserony river projecting far into the Essequibo; and on this neck of land was formerly situated the old sugar estate, called Quarroua, the first planted in this country, but long since deserted. Nature, triumphant over Art, has restored the flourishing soil to its primitive state, and it is again become a forest.

Above this post, in the centre of the Essequibo, is an island named by the Indians Potupatima: it is a most beautiful little spot covered with lovely trees of the finest foliage; and not far from it is another fine island called Koay.

The huts situated on the point are neatly built from the manicol tree, and are habitations for the slaves belonging to this wood-cutting plantation. These people earn a considerable profit for their owners by their labour, in cutting and sending the wood down the river to Fort Island, where it is disposed of to the numerous estates on this



river, sawed up, and made into barrels for conveying sugar or cotton to Europe; employed in building houses and bridges, and for other purposes. A well worked property of this kind has been known to make the fortunes of some Europeans, and to enable them to return home and live in splendour after an absence of twenty or thirty years.

Here we found growing the lofty wallaba, the wood of which is notorious for its hardness and durability: from the branches, or rather the outermost twigs of these trees, hung numerous nests of the beautiful small tropical birds, which, as they fly to and from the forest, delight the eye with flashes of radiance from their plumage; but they cannot please the ear with melody, for notes they have none, and the noise they make is generally disagreeable. Even here they shelter themselves under the protection of all-powerful man, and leave their native haunts in the forest for security against numerous deadly foes.

As I looked around me from this height, how thoroughly was I convinced of the grandeur of the torrid zone, its plains, its forests, its savannahs, its swamps, abounding with savage beasts, the largest serpents, and most beautiful birds; the waters below me with the all-devouring alligator, and various species of dangerous fish; while the trees were animated with the fantastic monkey—all created to prey one upon another. Why then should we be surprised at the wars waged by men against each other? Nature operates in us as in these animals, only corrected by knowledge and religion.

During our walk, we heard a rustling near us in the fallen leaves, and, on going up to the spot, out started an armadillo, running as fast as his legs could carry him. I took aim and shot him dead. This little animal is common in these forests, and he burrows, like the rabbit, in the sand-hills, out of which the natives frequently dig him. The Indians, who are expert at hunting the different animals in

the forest by their tracks and other indications, have an extraordinary and certain method of finding out if the armadillo is at home before they begin digging for him. On finding the hole by which the creature enters, they put in a long stalk of grass, or small stick, which they shake about, and, if a number of mosquitoes come out, they know to a certainty that the armadillo is within; but, if no mosquitoes are to be seen, then they are sure that no armadillo is to be found.

Every part of this animal, excepting the ears, is well protected by a covering of thick shell, which is exceedingly limber, and made exactly to resemble an ancient coat of armour, so that the wearer can run at full stretch, and, if overtaken, roll himself into a ball, as occasion may require, like our European hedgehog. The armadillo is as innocent as the hare with us. Like all the animals in this country, it is eaten by the natives, though to my taste its flesh is not good.

We observed abundance of the vanilla

growing luxuriantly in the forest, creeping up the trees to the height of from twenty to forty feet; but, so fond are the monkeys of its seed when ripe, that we found it difficult to meet with a ripe pod. It hangs from the stock in the shape of a scabbard; hence the Spaniards have given it the name of vanilla, or little scabbard.

We shot two or three black and white scarlet-headed finches, of which we afterwards saw plenty up this river.

During our walk we had occasionally to go through long, thick, and coarse grass, and our legs and lower extremities became covered with an exceedingly small insect, called the bête rouge, which penetrated through our only covering, a thin pair of white trowsers, and entered our skin, causing a most tormenting itching. Fearful of detaining our friends at Mon Repos, we now returned to our canoe, and started for that settlement, scratching ourselves by the way, and enduring great torment from our new enemies.

On arriving at this settlement, we found only one schooner at anchor, and soon heard that the rest had proceeded up the river. Such was by this time the pain we suffered, that my Dutch friend and myself were obliged to land and beg the assistance of some of the Indians to rid us of our tormentors. For this purpose, two old and ugly harridans came forward; and we were under the necessity of submitting to the operation of having the troublesome insects picked out of our flesh with the point of a pin, after which they rubbed the punctures with rum; and we once more found ourselves free from our tormentors. This insect is one of the most troublesome in Guiana. It is of a beautiful scarlet colour, and, when under the skin, gives it the appearance of raw flesh; its bite occasions an intolerable itching; and care must be taken not to scratch, for, if you break the skin, a sore will take place, which in this climate you will find it difficult to heal. It is most numerous in the rainy season, and

frequents the long grass and low shrubs. Having rewarded these two hags for their dexterity, we once more embarked on board the schooner left for us, but had not proceeded far before we were overtaken by a heavy squall of wind and rain, which obliged us to lower all our sails: it continued for half an hour, when it cleared off, and we were enabled to proceed. We then passed the settlement Yonk Man, and at three in the afternoon came to off the settlement called Agitos. Here we found our friends already landed, and waiting our arrival, as they intended to sleep higher up the river, at the settlement Patarima.

We found this property, the first up this river, belonging to a family of free coloured people, who are a mixture between the Mulattoes and native Indians, and thus having three kinds of blood in their veins, the White's, the Black's, and the Indian's, and possessing the worst qualities of each. Their method of living resembles that of the Indians, a number

of whom were residing with them ; but, from frequent intercourse with the Whites of the lower settlements, with whom they carry on a certain traffic, they sometimes make use of garments to cover their nakedness, and indulge themselves with rum and other luxuries, which the poor Indians cannot obtain. They manufacture large and handsome hammocks, which they dispose of to the colonists at a high price. This settlement was so large as to resemble a small village ; and, fearing an attack from the Indians, who had lately threatened them, they had erected a large block-house, on the top of a sandy eminence, as a place of security, with slits cut in it to discharge arrows through at their enemies. They told us that it was musket-proof, but were much astonished on our proving to them the contrary, by sending a ball quite through it.

A party of young men, who had gone out hunting early in the morning, returned with a fine large deer, of a bright red, or light ches-

nut colour, and its sides spotted with white ; and they immediately threw the whole settlement into the greatest alarm, by reporting their having discovered the tracks of the Aguaya Indians not far from their abode. It was this tribe they so much dreaded, being considered a very warlike and determined people, who, as we supposed, had been incensed by the habitual outrages of these mongrels, and likewise those of the pusillanimous Arrawakas, in stealing their children, and making prisoners of their young men and women, whom they barter away for rum and other commodities to the white inhabitants lower down the river—a cheap labourer being always sought after by the planters in preference to the Negroes, for whom they had to pay a high price since the abolition of the slave-trade: but they never bestowed a thought on the consequences that must ensue from the hate and detestation of these much-wronged natives, whose conduct towards the settlers had hitherto been most harmless and



inoffensive. They reported the numbers of the Aguayas to be great; and these free coloured people well knew that if they fell into their power they had nothing but death to expect.

Some experienced men being selected from among them to go and find out, if possible, what degree of credit was due to this report, our colonel determined to await their return. This circumstance considerably allayed the fears of the remaining inhabitants of this settlement, who, during the absence of their deputies, removed their wives and families into the block-house, and armed themselves for war; that is, with each a club hung from his wrist, a knife stuck in his girdle, a bow and bunch of arrows in his hand. We landed some of our people from the schooners, and all of us were armed with muskets and ball cartridge. It was the first time in my life that I had been so near a fight, excepting in Edinburgh, where the boys from the high school used frequently to attack us

at Old Laing's, and a severe bickering match was the consequence : broken heads and windows were common on such occasions. I now looked forward to a fight of a totally different nature ; but, alas ! was sorely disappointed, when, in a couple of hours, these men returned, and quieted the fears of their companions, by informing us that they had traced the Aguayas, and ascertained that they had proceeded up the river, without observing the settlement.

It is a curious fact, which was communicated to me by one of the men who had been out to trace the enemy, that the Indians will walk a whole day on tiptoe, to deceive those whom they intend to attack ; as, by this method of putting their feet to the ground, they leave a track resembling that of a tiger or jaguar : hence those unacquainted with their proximity must either fall an easy conquest, or be prevented from following them through these intricate forests.

Our boats having prepared for their de-

parture for Patarima settlement, our colonel obliged the chief of these free people to accompany us, and hired two young men to assist us in getting up the rapids, above which the Indians were collected; and, our cooks having been sent up with orders to prepare our dinner, we weighed anchor, but were soon compelled to quit the schooners and take to our canoes, the wind having entirely ceased, and the current being now against us. We accordingly left them at anchor, and did not reach Patarima until nearly eight o'clock, after a tiresome pull of three hours, during which we were nearly starved, the dinner having been ordered for five o'clock, and our appetites made up for that hour. We found the cooks all prepared to satisfy us, and, immediately on landing, sat down to one of our peccaries, part roasted and part dressed in a pepper-pot, with abundance of very fine fish, caught for us by the Negroes on this little settlement, and a young lobba, shot by one of our party before reaching Agitos.

This animal was about the size of a small pig, and not unlike it in shape. Its head is large, with short ears, and the upper lip divided like the hare's. It is covered with short hair, of a light chesnut colour, spotted with white; and the flesh, when dressed, resembles pork in appearance, being fat and white, but is much more delicate eating. Indeed, this animal is considered as the greatest dainty of these forests, being always found fat, and as round as a ball.

Soon after our repast, we all prepared to tumble into our hammocks without music; but the appearance of the bloodthirsty vampire, together with the horrid croaking and rattling noises occasioned by the crapauds and different species of animals, which now and then howled out a long and melancholy cry, together with the continued yelping of the Negroes' dogs, and the innumerable myriads of mosquitoes which now tormented us with their buzzing and biting, kept nearly all of us from sleeping. What a pity it is, thought

I, that, in a country like this, where all is grand and magnificent, we should still be subject to be tormented by the *bête rouge*, the mosquito, the jigger, the centipede, the tick, the *crapaud*, the biting ants, the flea, and such-like vermin !

Next morning we were rather amused by Ogilvie, the colonel's servant, who attended on him and me, coming in to his master in the exact state in which Parsons, Lieutenant Baillie's servant, did, on the first morning after sleeping at Groot Creek, and sucked in the same spot on his nose by the vampyres. These extraordinary animals generally prefer bleeding human beings in the feet, as I suppose because they run less risk of awaking them by attacking those parts ; but both these men, having fallen asleep in thick ammunition shoes and stockings, the bats were obliged to seek a new point of attack, and ventured on the nose. Cows and horses are frequently bled by them.

On looking about us from this settlement,

we found the river to be about one mile in breadth, and making so sudden a turn to the west, which is completely hidden by a few well wooded islands, that it has all the appearance of a lake. I now concluded we saw the head or source of this river, but could not help laughing on being told of a party of adventurous planters, who had once got up thus far, and, forming the same opinion with myself, did not take the trouble to proceed farther, to ascertain whether it was correct. Concluding that this was the source of the great river Essequibo, they immediately returned to the lower settlements ; and it was for some time believed among the Europeans that it took its rise from this presumed lake.

We got under weigh shortly after five o'clock, and continued up the stream with the little tide there was in our favour. We soon got through the supposed lake, and, after turning a sharp projecting point of land, covered with forest, saw the river continuing in all its magnificence, widening

considerably, being now upwards of two miles broad.

We found the morning in this climate much more fresh and delightful than the afternoon: the sun's powerful rays had not yet saturated all nature with its overpowering heat. The birds were now joyous and gay. Parrots in couples were seen crossing the river, and now and then a pair of the red and yellow macaws showed themselves, as they shifted their quarters, in the costly garb which Nature had given them. A cockatoo was rarely to be seen; and it is an extraordinary fact that, although these birds had never heard the report of a gun, yet Nature had provided them with such an instinct that they never came within reach of our shot. Indeed I observed, in my different excursions up the rivers in this wild country, that all quadrupeds, birds, and even insects, appeared alarmed at the sight of a human being; a few species only of the feathered tribe, which I have already mentioned, leaving their deso-

late abodes in the woods to take shelter under their protecting care. One of the free coloured men from Agitos pointed out to us the place, on the right or opposite bank, where a path runs across the country to the falls of the Demerara river, which are at about seven hours' distance.

At ten o'clock, the tide turning against us, we were obliged to anchor the schooners, and, taking to our canoes, we steered close in shore. The leading canoe, in which I was seated, with my gun, for the purpose of shooting whatever I might see, bumped with such violence against something in the water as nearly to upset us. We found it to be a sunken rock; but, by sitting quite still, we got off again without any farther accident; and, by twelve o'clock, we came to Billstains, a settlement consisting of two large huts built together, with four or five smaller ones surrounding them at different distances. This spot, being upon a rising ground, open to the river, commanded a most beautiful view, both up and down its wooded banks;



and, on landing for half an hour, I observed, for the first time, a new species of the palm, called eta: its branches, like those of the others, sprang in a cluster from the head of the stem, and the leaves spread out, like the open hand of a man, at the end of each of them. I have since, when quartered in Gibraltar, in 1826 and 7, seen a stunted palm, called the palmita, which grows in abundance on the very top of this extraordinary rock: this is the principal food of the monkeys, or apes, who live upon it, by tearing out the leaves and eating the white and tender ends of them. This exactly resembles the eta in appearance; and I should think that the leaves of the latter are used in the same way by some of the South American monkeys, as under many of the trees I saw the shoots torn open, gnawed, and thrown down. I shot several birds of a scarlet and blue colour, of the species called the eros, which were moving about in flocks from tree to tree, and feeding on their seeds.

As soon as our canoes touched the land at Billstains, the owner of this settlement came down to welcome us; and we were surprised to find him a European, in a most extraordinary Robinson Crusoe dress—a hat made of palm leaves, a coarse shirt, and a pair of short trowsers, without shoes or stockings. He informed us that he was a Dutchman, and for many years had been a watchmaker, and exercised that trade in Stabroek, in Demerara, and that he had been successful enough to amass some money; when, instead of returning to Europe, as all his friends supposed he had done, he had executed a design which he had long secretly harboured, of retiring into this wild and lonely situation. We now found him, after a lapse of thirteen years, living with a young Indian woman, by whom he had an exceedingly fine boy. The woods supplied him plentifully with game, the river and neighbouring creeks yielded him abundance of fish, and the ground around his little hut afforded him fruit and vegetables in

plenty. The family of his wife, an Arrawaka Indian, were settled with him, though not living in the same hut; and he ended his short story by informing us that he was nearly eighty years of age, and that the happiest days of his long life had been spent at this little settlement.

In answer to our inquiries concerning the Indians, he informed us that they were all collected above the falls; that they were an innocent and harmless people; and that he was sure their provocations for committing violence must be great; that he had not the least fear of them, but would accompany us up to their habitations, as he might be useful to the governor from understanding their language. We were all delighted to have him with us, and afterwards found him a most pleasant and intelligent little old fellow. He then showed his activity in preparing his curial or tented canoe, built by himself, which exactly held the white people of our party, and, with twelve of his Indian paddlers, got

through the water so rapidly, that by three o'clock in the afternoon we arrived at Koumaka Serima. Here our cooks fell to work, and for the first time we ate of that delicious fish called the paco, which is two feet in length, and nearly the same in breadth, weighing about ten pounds. Its colour is of a reddish purple, spotted with black, and it is to be found only in the rocky parts of this river, where it feeds upon a green weed called wooiya, which grows on the stones close to the water. The natives watch for and shoot it with a barbed arrow. The flesh of these fish is hard, but excellent eating; and, when dressed in a pepper-pot, is delicious.

Koumaka Serima, or Koumaka Point, is the last settlement of free coloured people up this river. Situated on a high point of land that runs into the river from its left bank, it commands a fine view both up and down the stream, which is here nearly one mile in breadth. The river now becomes so rocky that nothing larger than a small canoe can

proceed further up or be dragged against the rapids.

Our colonel, being determined to seek the Indians, to learn from them the cause of their dissatisfaction and to redress their wrongs, resolved to halt here for two days, in order to make the necessary preparations for ascending these rapids, or falls; and, in the meantime, wishing to see the effects of the hiare, or fish-poison, which is a species of the nebe, or bush-rope, and also to provide us with bows, fish-arrows, and spears, for the purpose of securing our prizes, he set the natives immediately to work to furnish those requisites.

We were now informed by the post-holder, who was a native of this settlement, that the Macoushi Indians, a race dwelling inland, on the confines of the Portuguese territories, on the great river of Amazons, had lately joined the tribes resident in our territories; and that many others from the interior of the Spanish main had come up to their assistance. We found this to be the settlement which had

been attacked by them as reported in Demerara. Three of the young men had been killed, and four badly wounded: one of these, whom we saw, still bore the mark of a club upon his head.

We were all most anxious to avail ourselves of this opportunity of seeing savages living at such a distance from each other, whom it would have taken us months to visit in the different countries inhabited by them; and, having to encounter all the dangers arising from climate, disease, wild beasts, and water, most likely we might have lost our lives in the undertaking.

#### CHAPTER IV.

Interior of the Houses at Koumaka Serima—Hunting Excursion—The Douraquare—The Maam—Majestic Trees—Ants' Nests—The Salempanta—Wild Pigeons—Shooting Fish—Chase of the Lobba—Natural Curiosity—The Kikaroone and Peccary—Their Mode of crossing Rivers—Names of Animals found on the Essequibo River—Powerful effect of Music on the Natives.

ON Sunday the 29th of November, after my usual morning bathe in the river, I returned to look at my thermometer, which I had hung to a beam in our hut, and was surprised to see it as low as 76°. In Spain and Portugal, I afterwards found this to be a moderate degree of heat, and have often known the mercury to indicate 84° and 85° in the shade. I sauntered about this settlement, examining into the customs and manners of its inhabitants, which I found exactly to resemble those of the Arrawaka Indians, whom I had already

seen up the Corantine river. At last I entered a building which served this large family as a kitchen, where I found a considerable store of various meats going through the process of smoke-drying. This is the only method these people have of preserving their meat, as salt is not to be found in this country; but so fond are they of it, that our servants were obliged to watch the baskets containing it for our use, as in England the nursery-maids do their sugar, to keep the children from picking and stealing. A large tray of basket-work was hung from the ceiling, over the fire, in the centre of this hut, and in it I observed a number of carcasses of animals cut up into pieces, with the heads of some still entire. Among these I found the head of a bush-dog complete. It was of the size of a common dog's, with short ears, pug nose, and strong, sharp, white teeth. There was also the head of a bush-cow, or, as the Indians call it, the maimpouri, or tapir of Buffon. From the size of the head, I sup-



posed this animal to have been as large as our Scotch cattle. The nose terminated in a short, small, and diminutive trunk, like that of the elephant. I have since seen this animal alive, and found it very much resembling an enormous pig in its shape, covered with soft hair, exactly resembling in colour that of the English mole. Its trunk must be used solely for conveying food into its mouth. This animal, the lobba, and deer, frequent the low grounds and swamps, or savannahs, of this country, near the sides of rivers and creeks, and afford the most savoury and delicate food of all the animals of these forests.

Hunting parties were now sent out in all directions in quest of different species of animals, for these people, like the native Indians, train each of their dogs to hunt one particular kind of animal only, and it is astonishing to what perfection they bring them.

After prayers were read to us by our garrison chaplain, we proposed to some young

natives to accompany them in hunting the lobba, which is the least fatiguing sport, as it does not oblige you to enter the forest. Starting with four of them in a canoe, accompanied by three little dogs, which resembled the coolie or cur of Scotland, we proceeded across the river to a small creek, where they intended throwing off for game. I had taken a paddle in my hand, and now astonished these people by the manner in which I pulled our little bark along. Custom renders easy; for, I well remember the first time that I entered one of these little skiffs, it was so long and narrow that I was two or three times nearly filling it with water. It is a true saying that "practice makes perfect," for I now sat as firm and steady as an Indian.

On putting the dogs on shore, they soon gave tongue, and we immediately heard a covey of the दौराक्वारे on the wing; this bird resembles our English partridge in its colours, but is not more than half its size. Another difference is that, when disturbed

upon the ground, it perches on branches of trees, where it may be easily shot. At first, I could not discover these birds, until one of the natives pointed them out to me. I fired, and brought down a brace.

We were proceeding up the creek, the trees on both sides meeting over our heads, the dogs hunting in the woods, and not far off—when we discovered on the banks, which were sandy, close to the water's edge, the track of a maimpouri or tapir, which had been down to drink and again retired. Near this spot grew great numbers of the thorny palm-tree, called aquiero, on the fruit of which this animal had been evidently feeding, from the size of the footmarks which we saw on the loose sand, measuring exactly six inches and a half from heel to point of the longest of the toes, of which it evidently had only three. The Indians declared that it was a large animal of its kind, and that the track was evidently at least one day old; which disappointed me much, as I was in hopes of

getting a shot at him. We again pushed up the creek, and started several of the maams: but they were so shy that we could not get a shot at them. This bird is about the size of a pullet, and resembles it much in shape and manners. It is of a lightish brown colour, the flesh, when dressed, being white and delicate, but exceedingly dry, like most of the birds in this country, requiring a great deal of moisture or fat to dress them with. The maam is so remarkably plump as to fly with difficulty; and it cannot go to any distance on the wing without frequently resting, so that often, when attempting to cross these large rivers, it falls into them.

Nothing could surpass the beauty of the trees which here surrounded us. The buletre, the purple heart, the siloabali, and the wal-laba, were in great abundance, and raised their towering tops in majestic grandeur, having stems as straight as arrows, at least seventy feet in height, without a branch quite to their summits. These, intermixed

with different species of the picturesque palm, embellished the magnificent scene presented to us by Nature.

Here and there an ants' nest struck me with astonishment. Formed of clay, these nests sometimes rise to the height of eight or ten feet above the surface of the earth; some of them in a spiral form, impenetrable to rain, and strong enough to resist the most furious storm.

The dogs not finding any track of the lobba, we took them into our canoe: and, running back again with a strong current, and gaining the large and splendid Essequibo, we crossed over to a small island covered with wood. On shoving in the head of the canoe, one of the young natives, who always stood on the watch at its head, discovered a salempanta, seated on the stump of an old decayed tree, which he immediately shot through the body.

The salempanta is an exceedingly ugly and monstrous-looking lizard, measuring three

feet in length from the point of the tail to its nose, and of a brownish green, spotted with yellow. It is amphibious, and runs along the bottom of the water as easily as it does on dry land. It feeds generally on herbs and small insects, and is eaten by the natives. One of the little dogs, on seeing the animal, immediately seized it by the back; but the lizard, turning up its mouth, laid hold of his cheek so fast that one of the young Indians was obliged nearly to knock it to pieces with the paddle, in order to make it quit its hold.

It took us nearly three hours to hunt completely round this island, and we started nothing but a few quacuias, or wild pigeons. They were small, but most beautifully coloured; their heads being a pale green, softening down to a light reddish brown on the breast, and having round the back of the neck a complete collar of black and white feathers. The shoulders of the wings were marked with the same colours, going off into

long feathers, which were black, and the tail and back were of the colour of bistre.

We also killed a few of the mawou; but found no lobba. We again crossed over to the main on the opposite side, to try for them. Our coloured companions, being determined not to return home without something eatable, began to shoot fish, in which sport they showed the greatest skill and dexterity. One of them, standing upright in the bows of the canoe, armed with a bow and a pronged fish-arrow, discovered a fish at the distance of six or eight paces, and immediately shot it, although it was considerably under water. The paddlers, according to his direction, moved on the canoe without raising their paddles above the water, that they might not disturb or frighten the fish, until he could get a fair opportunity of discharging his arrow, which seldom failed to pierce its object.

We had by this time taken several fine fish, when the voice of one of our little dogs, called

Nebe, who had been put on shore with the rest of his companions, attracted our attention, and a lobba was now the cry. They seemed fast approaching the water to which these little animals always flee for protection, and all in the canoe waited in silent expectation for its appearance, the dogs still following slowly, but surely, on his track. The arrows were placed ready for his destruction, and the canoe paddled to a short distance from the banks of the river, in order that we might more easily observe his approach to it; for so quick are these little animals, that they plunge at once under water, and then defy both men and dogs to hunt them out. The dogs gave tongue, as if in view; by degrees the sound grew fainter, and I became fearful lest the game should make his escape; but my companions desired me to sit still and be silent, saying that the dogs would soon turn him to us. The sound, meanwhile, grew still fainter, and we could hardly distinguish their voices. Some of the young men now observed it must



be an animal which they could not master, otherwise they would not have failed to drive it to the water; and two of them were immediately landed and entered the forest to assist the dogs. Their loud shouts soon informed us that they had found the game; and the yelping of the dogs approached us fast. "Massa," said one of the young men to me, "he come! look good!" and, taking aim, I looked in the direction in which his arrow was pointed, and there I saw the animal approaching the water's edge; but, just as he had gained it, he was pierced through the back and fell dead. I never saw so beautiful a shot. Two other beasts followed the first; I fired at one of them and brought him down, and both the Indians let fly their arrows at the third, just as he was about springing into the water; but whether it was my gun that agitated them I cannot tell; both missed, and the lobba escaped. The little dogs now appeared advancing on their scent, giving tongue like our beagles, till they reached the animal,

which they eagerly seized. The two free coloured men, who had been detached into the forest, shortly returning, informed us that the lobbas had taken possession of a hollow tree, where they kept the dogs at bay, until they frightened them out ; they also said that they had heard the kikaroone, or wild hog ; but we resolved to return with the game we had already secured, and paddled down the stream towards Koumaka Serima, nearly two miles below us.

On our way we passed a small island, which the Indians thought a great curiosity. It was covered with thick bush, or underwood, and in the centre I saw the head of a high rock, standing up about twenty feet. On landing and getting to it, I found that it exactly resembled a pulpit ; and, by creeping through a small hole, on my hands and knees, I gained a steep and narrow path, twisting round it like a cork-screw, which led me to its top, whence I had an extensive view on all sides.

On gaining Koumaka Point, I found our party preparing to sit down to dinner, not upon chairs, as we do in this Christian land of ours, but squatting upon their haunches on the ground. Lobba, fish, and deer, were our fare this day; and we toasted a piece of the barbecued maimpouri, which we found dry and insipid, from the Indian manner of preserving it. Our colonel informed me that he could not obtain any decisive proof that these people had disposed of any of the Indian children, though he had tried all in his power to ascertain the fact; and, therefore, he must now wait until he heard what the Indians had to say against them; as he intended to take the two chiefs of this settlement and of Agitos, whom we brought thus far with us, to confront with them.

Numerous hunters came in towards evening, some bringing wild deer, others the largest kind of wild hogs, called by the Arrawaka Indians kikaroone, and by the Karabish Indians paingo, resembling in a great degree

the wild boar of Europe. Others again brought home the smaller kind, called by the Arrawakas the peccary, and by the Karabish the abouya, which, when hotly pursued, shelters itself in holes or stumps of trees that have become hollow from age, where they will defend themselves bravely, always showing a front to their enemies. It is curious to observe the manner in which the first species cross the rivers, or creeks, which they frequently do in herds of from one to two hundred.

The chief of this numerous family is the first who enters the water, being a stout old boar; the next following places his fore legs across the hinder parts of the first, by which means he is enabled to keep his long snout out of the water, and thus they proceed, swimming only with their hind legs, the breast of each resting on the one before him, and forming a line of considerable length. The Indians, who are fortunate enough to meet with them in the water, immediately

knock on the head the old leader, with a hard-wood club, which they always carry in their canoes, and the rest become an easy prey. A young creole informed us, that once, going up the river, above the falls, he fell in with a herd of the kikaroone, or paingo, in the water, and he and his companions fell to work, until they could lift their arms no longer. They then returned for more canoes to assist them in picking up those they had slain; and thus collected forty floating down the river with the current, and he supposed that some must have sunk and been lost.

I found their flesh, when dressed, as good as that of the wild boar, which I have since killed in Portugal, Spain, and France.

NAMES OF ANIMALS TO BE FOUND IN THIS RIVER :

Maimpouri,	Tapir of Buffon.
Jaguar,	South American Tiger.
Kikaroone,	Wild Hog.—Arrawaka.
Paingo,	The same.—Karabish.
Peccary,	Small species of wild hog.—Arrawaka.
Abouya,	The same.—Karabish.
Lobba,	A small animal—excellent eating

Salempanta,	A large lizard.
Cayman,	Alligator—exceedingly dangerous.
Opoasum,	A curious small animal, carrying its young, like the kangaroo, in a bag at its stomach.

This evening our musical party entertained the inhabitants with their usual harmony, and these wild people actually screamed with delight. Observing some of them, when we played a lively tune, to fall naturally into a sort of dancing motion, we continued it until the whole family, old and young, appeared to have absolutely lost their senses in the transport they experienced. Women and men, boys and girls, now commenced dancing about in the most extraordinary attitudes I ever beheld, slapping their own naked thighs and arms, as if they had lost all feeling, at the same time without a smile on their countenances. We played the same tune over and over again for nearly an hour, during which time these innocent people appeared stark mad. Stall's clarinet and my flute at last wanted breath to continue, and de Fallois and Moliere's fingers could no longer

touch the strings of the guitar and violin. We stopped, but the dancers continued their exercise, with shouts and extraordinary attitudes, for at least a quarter of an hour afterwards. The old post-holder, whose name was Sami, was as active as the youngest amongst them. At last they ended their frantic dance, all perspiring like bulls, and seated themselves on the grass, apparently anxiously awaiting another signal for action. We closed our evening's amusement with a serious Dutch song, during which they gathered around us, head over head, not to lose a note of our music—such was the effect it had on these children of Nature, who for the first time heard the harmony of European voices and instruments.

This night passed rather more pleasantly than some of the preceding ; for, the situation of this settlement being on a point of land running into the river, and free from wood, we had not the horrid noise of beasts of prey, or the abominable vampyre to disturb

us. We only now and then heard a distant crapaud, with the note of a bird, which seemed to say, "Whip poor Will, whip, whip, whip, poor Will!" and the melancholy hoot of an owl, that broke the silence of the night.



## CHAPTER V.

Departure for the Falls of the Essequibo—Beautiful Island—The Falls and surrounding Scenery—Dangerous Passage of the third Fall—Method pursued by the Natives—Their Mode of Swimming—The Jaguar—Remarkable Rock—Rescue of a Portuguese Officer from its Summit—Halt at Eta Bali—Thunder-storm—Nocturnal Noises of wild Animals—An Alligator—The Author proceeds up the River with old Billstains—Magnificent Vegetation—Affecting Simile—Indian Habitations—Song—Deserted Indian Settlement—The Dara—The Wallababa—The Ibibirou—The Jacamar—The Plant which yields Caoutchouc—Valuable Properties of that Substance—White Caoutchouc.

EVERY thing being prepared over-night for ascending the falls on the following morning, and having been reinforced by some of the free coloured people of this settlement, to assist in guiding us, at nine o'clock we stepped into our canoes, which were five in number, the largest holding twelve persons. These were Colonel Nicholson, Ouckama, de Grout,

Strahan, and eight native paddlers. In the second were Rassin, the fiscal, with his friend, Moliere, old Billstains, and six paddlers. The third contained Van Sertina, Stall, and Lieutenant Baillie, with the same number of paddlers. The fourth, which was the smallest, and consequently the lightest, was given to de Fallois and myself. We headed the party, with four paddlers, whom we had chosen for their make and appearance; and in the fifth canoe followed the two free coloured chiefs, with the two white servants, four black servants, and six paddlers. This canoe held the wine, spirits, and provisions, together with the cooking utensils and presents for the Indians. Our three schooners were left at Koumaka Point to await our return.

Off we started, with shouts from our paddlers, which were answered by the women of this settlement, who, standing on the hill, kept waving their hands, and every now and then bursting into a loud and long note,

which reached our ears some time after we had lost sight of them. In two hours we arrived at the first rapid, which was principally caused by a beautiful verdant island, covered with trees, and called by the natives Itaka. Here we landed, whilst the canoes were hauled up the rapid, and found great numbers of the finest orange-trees in full bearing, covered at the same time with the most luxuriant fruit and blossom; and, seating ourselves, like the native Indians, under their delicious shade, we copied them in making a repast on the produce of these fragrant trees, which was not the less enjoyed for the situation we were in.

During the time we were thus employed, the canoes were hauled up the first rapid, which is caused by this island, standing, as it does, in the very centre of the river. Walking up to rejoin them, we again embarked from the upper part of the island, and shortly afterwards were drawn up the second fall, or rapid, called Powanerie.

The scenery before us now became striking. A superb barrier of rocks was seen running across the river, which in the rainy season is quite covered with water, and is therefore rendered impassable either ascending or descending: but, it being now dry weather, we had a magnificent view of them, and saw the water from the river above them rushing through their different openings in majestic grandeur. These are called rapids in this country.

The scenery around us became more lovely as we advanced. The appearance of the forest on each bank of this noble river—hills rising on hills in beautiful gradation, covered with trees of gigantic height and size—filled us all with wonder and delight. The change from the placid waters we had journeyed over from Fort Island to the thundering noise which now struck upon the ear was most impressive. Bold projecting rocks now raised their venerable heads in all directions, some tufted with luxuriant shrubs, rich in varie-

gated blossoms. The body of water, divided into so many channels, came pouring down with tremendous fury and uproar, forming deep and dangerous whirlpools.

Our guides, being perfectly acquainted with the safest channels, led us through the shallow passages, where the current had not sufficient force to drive us back; and, with their dexterous paddling, they carried us on amidst all these dangers in the greatest safety.

On arriving at the third fall, called Towanerie, we found but one small channel, and this almost impassable for any of our canoes: in consequence, we were obliged to land a little below it, and to scramble on until we gained the upper part of it. The canoes, one after another, having only the free coloured people on board, now boldly pushed into the middle of the current; and we were astonished to see the whole crew, on gaining nearly the foot of this fall, or rapid, leap into the water. Still greater was our surprise when these daring people appeared on the top

of a rock, which stood above it, holding in their hands a rope by which they hauled their canoe up the fall.

In their swimming, they showed astonishing strength and dexterity, making their way under water against the strongest current, just as a salmon does in our own rivers. They told me that they swam with their eyes open, and never made use of their arms, but held them as if tied to their sides.

On walking round to the canoes, we were obliged to pass over some considerable spaces covered with loose sand, which lay here and there between the rocks; and on one of these places I observed the track of a large-footed animal, which exactly contained my doubled fist. On calling a free coloured native, he informed me that it was a jaguar's or tiger's, and that, in all probability, he was not far off, as the track was quite fresh. I immediately proposed to try for him, and off we started, following his footsteps. We had not proceeded far, when we approached a

dark red mass of rock, standing high above the surrounding sand. My companion pointed to it, and I observed that the track led in that direction. On reaching it, I cocked my gun, and made a rush from behind it; but the elegant animal was too quick and knowing for a greenhorn like me, and I saw him already seventy or eighty yards from me, trotting towards the woods. I never beheld any thing more beautiful than the appearance of this creature, as it stole cunningly over the sand, now and then looking back to see what we were about. It appeared to me to be about four feet from the root of its tail to its nose, of a tawny orange colour, having a white belly. Along its back ran longitudinal black bars or stripes, and its sides were spotted with white. In all its movements it was a perfect cat, and, like that animal, the jaguar tears and mangles whatever it kills, for the sake of the blood, with which this ferocious beast is never glutted. Savage as this quadruped is, it cannot match the aboma

snake, which, when it falls within its power, crushes it to a jelly in a few moments. Several species of the jaguar are found in South America, and, although called tiger, they in reality approach nearer to the leopard species. Two of the smallest kinds are named tiger-cats, and beautiful creatures they are in colour and marks.

I had a ball in my fowling-piece, and was therefore determined to try my chance of hitting him. I fired; the animal, who was trotting slowly, instantly sprang into the air, and went off in bounds, just like a cat, carrying his long tail straight behind him, into the neighbouring forest. The distance was too great, and the animal was only frightened at the noise made by my gun.

At the fourth fall or rapid, called Maranerie, stands a large upright rock, about twenty feet in height. Near its surface was pointed out to me the watermark when this river is flooded in the rainy season. It was easily visible, the head of the stone being



dark, and below the watermark, which is about twelve feet above the usual level, of a lightish clay colour.

An Indian, or free coloured man, in our canoe, informed me that he had been told by his father, that, about fifty years ago, he had taken from its top a Portuguese officer, who had made his way thither in a canoe, having been sent by his governor to this country with a present to the Dutch governor of Surinam, for his humane conduct towards a ship's crew wrecked on the Surinam coast. Unfortunately, his small canoe was driven with such force by the current against this rock that the people who accompanied him all perished. This story made me conjecture that both this river and the Oronoko have their source somewhere near the great Rio Negro, which runs through Brazil, forming by these main arteries a near communication through parts of this prodigious continent.

At two P. M. we passed the fifth fall, called

Gooyewag, which we found not nearly so rapid as some we had already passed: and another hour carried us up the Poremoura fall, which is the last. Only a few scattered rocks were here visible in the water, and not in sufficient number to produce a rapid.

Among these we were steering, when a beautiful spot of ground, projecting into the water, struck the attention of us all nearly at the same time: and the colonel determined to make it our resting-place, at all events for the night, until he should be enabled to find out the situation of the Indian bivouac.

We pulled for it, and, immediately on landing, set our paddlers to work in clearing away some of the large trees and underwood; and, in the course of three hours, we found ourselves seated under a tolerably commodious hut, erected from the eta trees, which grew abundantly in this neighbourhood, and thatched with their leaves. Two others were placed at no great distance from ours: one for the accommodation of the white servants,

and a much larger for the native canoe-men. From the huts being thatched with the leaves of the eta palm tree, which were the most numerous in this neighbourhood, we named our settlement Eta Bali, or Eta Town. Not long after we had taken possession, the sky thickened with clouds, and loud and frequent peals of distant thunder and lightning announced an impending storm. About seven o'clock the tempest approached in chill blasts of wind, which whistled through the surrounding forest in long and dismal howls; when, at length, a noise struck our ears which raised us from our hammocks in astonishment. It rapidly approached us, and increased in loudness. We rushed from our hut to ascertain the cause, when a torrent of rain, like bucketfuls of water, descended upon our heads. This it was which had astonished us so exceedingly, by the noise it occasioned in falling upon the dry leaves of the trees, as it passed over the forest: and we returned to our shelter drenched to the skin.

This whole night were we disturbed by the roaring of the jaguars, the hissing of snakes, and the howlings of baboons. We, of course, defended ourselves from their attacks by making a circular fire, inclosing our three huts; and, the next morning, we were happy to see the sun rising with his usual splendour, and without a cloud to intercept his rays.

On the first of December, soon after rising, I scrambled up the left bank of the river, upon which we had encamped for the night, to look for a convenient spot for taking my usual morning's bath; and had not proceeded far before I reached a deep and quiet pool of easy access, which appeared to be made for the purpose, no current on the water being here visible, as it extended from the river for a short distance into the forest. I immediately threw off my clothes, and was standing on its edge, ready to plunge in, when the glorious sun attracted my attention, by striking on something under water. I imagined it to be a large fish; but, wishing to

ascertain what it really was before I ventured into its proper element, judge of my horror and surprise on discovering it to be an enormous alligator, at least ten feet long, lying across the bottom of this pool, with his head on my side, and two enormous eyes staring up at me. Such was my horror at this sight that, seizing my shirt and trowsers only, I started back to my friends, forgetting I was stripped until my arrival, when I felt my legs and some parts of my body painful, from the thorns and scratches I had received in running through the bush. All now hastily examined their guns, and some of the free coloured people accompanied me back to the spot where the monster was lying; and, as I stood pointing him out to their view, the hideous creature turned away from us, and in an instant was lost to sight. An old coloured free man now said, "Let him go!—it's good—me take him dis night." On our inquiring how he meant to proceed, and what authority he had for supposing the animal

would be induced to come back again to the same place, he made us understand that it was a female, for he had seen her very big with young; and that, no doubt, she selected this spot to bring them forth, because there was no current in the water.

On our return to Eta Bali, we found old Billstains just departing in a canoe, paddled by four free coloured people, on his way up the river on a diplomatic mission, to inform the Indians of the governor's arrival. I requested the colonel's permission to accompany him — it was granted. I jumped into the canoe, and off we started, having first brought back my hat and regimental jacket from the fangs of the alligator.

The morning was lovely, and nothing could be more cheering than the notes of the birds, which sounded on all sides; for the river, as we advanced, was, in some parts, not more than a quarter of a mile in breadth.

The banks were covered with the most beautiful trees I ever beheld. The sawari,

the buletre, the tauronira, and mora, were in vast abundance, with thousands of other species, which I could not learn the names of.

What a grand display of vegetable nature was now before me! Old Billstains was as much, if not more, delighted with it than I was. "Oh," said he, "what fools my countrymen were not to change Holland for this country! My days are now few in this world," he proceeded, "but I hope to continue them, as long as the Almighty pleases, among these darling forests. There," said he, "pointing to the remains of an old tauronira, which drooped its withered branches over the stream, "there is a true emblem of myself, falling into decay; and, like me, soon to lie in the earth to rot! You perceive that it is now shattered, and fungus-grown with time and exposure to weather. Millions of insects are now busily employed in destroying it. A gust of wind is enough to bring it to the ground, and make room for its successor. There, again, not far from it is a

healthy, young, and stately buletre, like yourself, holding its head high in air, to surpass its companions. Nature has been kind to it; it has not a mark to show that its best days are past, and it stands flourishing in youthful beauty, an ornament to these sequestered wilds. Oh! my young friend! think of Him who made us to flourish here."

"O, Nature!" exclaimed I, "what strong proofs thou placest before us to prove what all on the face of this earth must at last come to! and how plainly dost thou show us, that thy mightiest works avail naught, when 'tis Heaven's will that they should cease to be!"

We kept up the left bank of the river, in order to find out the settlement, or bivouac, of the Indian tribes; and, after nearly three hours' pulling up against a rapid stream, we at last discovered on the side, close to the water, some appearance of habitations. We all now commenced singing a loud chorus, in order not to surprise the Indians by coming suddenly among them.



The English of our song, as near as I could translate it, was the following :

As friends we are coming,  
Then do not be running,  
For, Mati, Mati, we love you well !

The great man is near,  
You have no reason to fear,  
Then Mati, Mati, your story tell.

This was old Billstains' composition, made upon the occasion, which the whole crew now bellowed out, making their voices re-echo through the forest.

We observed, for more than a mile above us, the left bank of the stream, covered with comfortable, neat-looking huts, built and most beautifully thatched with the palm-tree, which is generally preferred by these people, from its capability of being worked ; but not a soul was to be seen ; and, pulling away, we passed many of them, still singing out old Billstains' verses. At last we concluded that the Indians had decamped, and landed to ascertain the fact.

Billstains, myself, and two of the free coloured people, each of us well armed, now promenaded from hut to hut, to try, if possible, to meet with one or two solitary inhabitants; but, after two hours' walking through the forest, we found them all completely deserted, and not an article left behind in them. The very fires were all extinguished, which proved that the inmates must have taken their departure at least two days before.

Numbers of beautiful birds were now seen flying from tree to tree, and we heard the voices of several, which generally avoid the presence of man. Among these was the solitary dara, which tolled out its melancholy cry, exactly resembling the sound of a village bell. It was loud, clear, and sonorous. This bird is of the size of an English magpie; with plumage as white as snow, having a high crest of black and white rising from its head. Orpheus himself would drop his lute, to listen, so sweet and so romantic is the toll which this snow-white bird sends forth.

The wallababa is another beautiful bird, with purple body and white wings. When he flew over our heads between us and the sun, the reflection made him appear to be adorned with all the colours of the rainbow. His voice is hoarse, his cry sounding like his name.

The ibibirou was another bird which I had some difficulty in getting near enough to kill. At a little distance this bird resembles our European magpie; its head being black and white, but the breast, back, and wings, are much more beautiful. It is exceedingly cunning, and constantly on the move.

Another bird which I shot this day was also very beautiful, though I could not ascertain its name. Its colours were superb, continually changing as it moved from branch to branch, from the most brilliant gold and blue to gold and green, and red. In colours it had all the splendour of the humming-bird, and it resembles that little creature in another point, for Nature has denied it a voice. I have since

seen a description which strikes me to be intended for this magnificent bird, in Water-ton's "Wanderings in South America," under the name of the jacamar.

Among the curious plants produced in great abundance I observed that which yields the caoutchouc or India rubber, which was first brought to Europe by a deputation of French academicians, who undertook a voyage to South America, in 1736, for the purpose of obtaining the correct admeasurement of a degree of the meridian. These philosophers, not confining their attention to the one great object of their pursuit, also enriched the scientific world, by ascertaining many facts connected with natural history, which had heretofore been hidden in obscurity. The manner in which this peculiar substance was produced had never been known in Europe until these academicians discovered, whilst in Brazil, trees, called by the natives, hevé: from these flowed a milky juice, which, when dried, proved to be the India rubber. The only use

which I found the natives made of it, up this river, was to burn it as candles, and they give a brilliant light, though the odour, at the time of burning, is not the most agreeable.

Caoutchouc possesses some peculiar properties, which, from the earliest period of its being brought to Europe, have furnished a subject of diligent investigation to some eminent chemists; and it has been found the most pliable and elastic composition of all known substances, and so tenacious, that it cannot be broken without considerable force.

Within the last three years, two solvents for this substance have been discovered, and it is ascertained that a thin coating of the solution laid upon stuff of any texture renders it impervious to air or moisture; and, at the same time, it may be folded in as portable a form as before it had received this preparation. Thus, air-pillows and air-beds are now formed, and military cloaks made waterproof by means of caoutchouc: and what a

comfort will it be to my companions in the next campaign, to have a light tent or marquee over their heads, which will effectually exclude all rain, while a mattress of the same substance will enable them to sleep in clover.

I have heard of a species of this plant in Asia, which, being also a native of a tropical climate, produces nearly the same kind of India rubber. The only difference consists in the method of drying, which produces the solid flat pieces, called, in this country, the white India rubber.

## CHAPTER VI.

A Fishing Expedition planned—Selection of a fit Spot for the purpose—Success of the Hunters—The Assery—The Arasarou—Hook and Bait for Alligators—Catching an Alligator—Description of the Animal—The Cutting-up—Young Alligators—Fishing with the Hiare Poison—Mode of preparing it—Its Effect on the Fish—Success of the Operation—Species of Fish caught—The Carteback—The Kibilu—The Curo-curo—The Wata-wata—The Fish-Hawk—The Hiare Root—Reprimand of the Coloured Chiefs—Remarkable Notes of Birds at Night—A Monstrous Serpent—Method of Charming it by the Eye—Skinning it Alive—Authorities concerning the Faculty of Charming Snakes.

HAVING fully ascertained that the Indians had all retired, and, most probably, from the tracks we observed, in different directions, we embarked, with the intention of running down to Eta Bali, to inform the acting governor of this circumstance; and, one hour afterwards, finding him seated under the shelter of the eta palm leaves, at Eta Bali, we made our report to him. He lamented not

having met with these poor Indians, as he said his only wish was to be serviceable to them: "but," added he, "as we have been disappointed, we must now make ourselves amends by devoting to-morrow to fishing with the hiare poison." Then, turning round to me and de Fallois, he desired us to see every thing necessary for this sport prepared for the next morning. Both of us immediately entered our canoe, and, pulled by two old and two young men, started for the opposite shore, a little higher up than Eta Bali, for the purpose of inspecting what our companions considered the most likely place for catching the greatest number of fish. This was a very high rapid, almost deserving the name of fall, close under the bank, on right side of the river. "Now," said old Yan, "the force of this water will drive the poison to the bottom, where most fish generally hide themselves." Then, showing us below the fall, where the water was shallow enough for us to see the bottom easily, with every thing



passing over, "Here," said he, "you buckras will be able to see them and strike them with your darts." We approved of the situation, and returned to see that all the spears and bows and arrows were in a proper state for the meditated attack on the finny tribe.

In the evening our hunters returned with a wild hog, called the kikaroone, a deer, trumpet-birds, powies, or wild turkeys of these woods, and two fine pacoos, which they had shot with their bows on their return up the river. They likewise brought with them a quantity of small fruit, called by them assery; it grows on a species of vine, which creeps up the branches of trees, and yields a sort of berry, about the size of the largest English gooseberry. Its inner substance has a slight resemblance to that fruit, but it is of a much more delicious flavour, being a mixture of sweet and acid resembling lemonade. The monkeys, and many of the birds of these forests, are particularly fond of this fruit, and are to be found in numbers about it when

ripe. They showed me also some of the arasarou berries, with the juice of which I have frequently seen their faces, thighs, and arms, stained in fantastical figures, of a beautiful clear blue colour. The native Indians take great pleasure in adorning themselves with this juice upon any particular occurrence in their tribe, such as a marriage, the election of a new chief, or going to make war; and they cut most extraordinary figures with their bodies thus besmeared with this blue dye on a red skin, and their heads stuck full of coloured feathers, so that their appearance would frighten even their dearest friends.

The night set in quite dark immediately after sunset, and my friend Yan now told me that he had placed his bait in the little pool in which I had seen the cayman, or alligator, and that by the morning he hoped to have secured it. I had seen his hook before he placed it, and a most clumsy contrivance it appeared to me, consisting of three prongs, cut from the branches of a hard-wood tree,

sharpened at the points, which were as thick as my finger. These were tied firmly together with the silk-grass, and strongly attached to a thick cord of the same material, which, he informed me, was fastened round a tree: a dead lobba was the bait.

I begged him to take me just to see the manner in which it was placed; and he consented to do so, provided I would not speak or make the least noise. I found the bait hanging within a few inches of the water, supported by a small branch of a tree, stretching over the pool, across which the rope had been drawn, and fastened round the stump of another, which might have defied the strength of an elephant to wrench it from the earth. The moon, now just rising, shed her pale light over the waters, and the evening breeze springing up, began to agitate the waving branches. The weight of the lobba caused the branch to swing in such a manner, that in its descent it sometimes touched the surface of the water. "Massa," exclaimed

Yan, "it's good!" and, seizing me by the arm, he hauled me away, and said he would come and inform me as soon as the cayman was hooked.

On returning to Eta Bali, I found that all my friends had retired to their hammocks, and, tumbling into mine with my clothes on, to be prepared for the alligator, I continued lying on the watch for the first three hours, when my eyelids yielded to the power of sleep. How long I had been wrapt in refreshing slumber I know not, when a violent shake of my hammock awoke me. "Massa, me hab him!" exclaimed Yan, who was standing at my side. Immediately springing from my hammock, and waking the governor, I informed him and all our other friends that the cayman was hooked, and in a moment they were ready to see him hauled from the river.

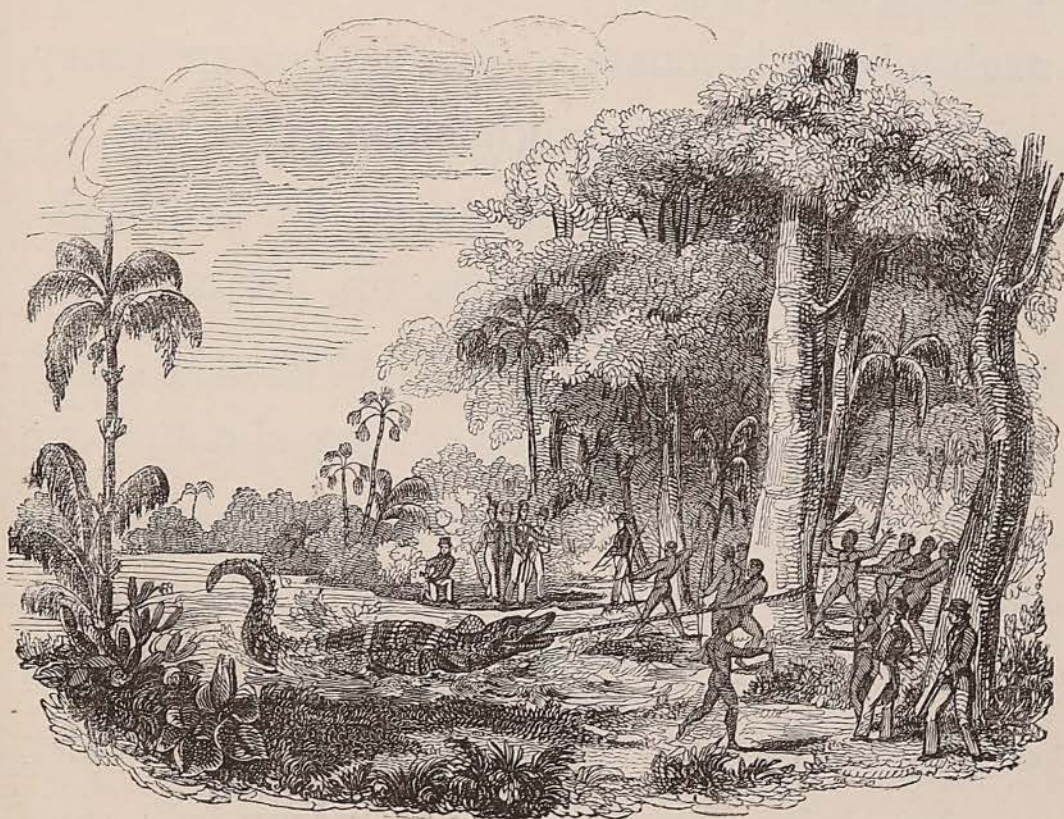
As we scrambled through the woods to the cayman's deep pool, we saw the sun just appearing in the east; and on reaching it I observed that the rope had been pulled off the

branch, and that the lobba and hook had both disappeared under water.

Our whole party of Whites, with nearly forty coloured persons, now drew up on the bank, preparatory to hauling the animal from the water. It was determined that Yan, who had hooked it, should direct the arrangements for putting this cruel animal to death. For this purpose he placed five of his countrymen close to the water, with orders to throw an arrow into it, as opportunity should offer, on its appearing above the surface. Five others were placed further in the rear to salute it on touching land, and three more, with heavy hard-wood clubs, were to dispatch it when drawn out of the water. We were desired not to fire unless it should break its cord and attempt to escape.

Six stout young men now began hauling at the cord, and shortly afterwards the snout of the alligator appeared above the water; the whole head followed, then the breast and fore-legs were seen, as it struggled most de-

sperately to get back again into its own element. Loud sighs, which might have been heard a mile off, were the only noise it made. At length the hind legs and long tail were visible; the latter it used in a most furious manner, dashing the water over us all as we surrounded the spot.



The five young natives who were placed close to the water took every opportunity, as the animal appeared above it, of throwing an arrow into the softest part of its body, which

was underneath, about the neck and belly. Loud and furious hisses, or almost sighs, issued from its mouth, which it every now and then opened to an enormous extent, and closed again with a sound like the slamming of a door.

The whole body was now on dry land, and I have never, either before or since, beheld such a horrid monster. The six coloured men pulled with all their might, having turned the rope once round a tree, to which they were thus hauling the creature up, in order to prevent its running at any of the party; and the men, who were placed to shoot it on shore, now threw their arrows into its sides, which were swelled out to an enormous size. The wounds it had already received, and the consequent loss of blood, had, by this time, rendered its resistance less powerful; and they succeeded in dragging it with its snout close up to the tree, and immediately out sprang the three club-men. Two of them began battering the skull of the animal, and

one attacked it on the back, just about the loins, and soon deprived it of life. It expanded its paws, and died.

I thought of Lockman's witty observation, "The elephant caught in a pit, said to itself, let me but once get out, and I will never be here again." "Now," said I, "this poor animal, instead of agreeing with the elephant, would give the world to be in the pit again."

This creature measured fifteen feet and a half from the point of its nose to the tip of its tail. Its back, which appeared to me impenetrable to a musket-ball, was of a dark greenish colour. The covering of its sides and belly was not nearly so strong, and could not even resist an arrow. The teeth are all placed for snatching; and, perhaps, no animal bears such decided marks of cruelty as the alligator: he is, therefore, a terror to all the human and brute inhabitants of the borders of large rivers in this country.

Old daddy Yan now ordered it to be turned upon its back, and, drawing his knife from



his girdle, immediately cut it open from the fore legs to the hinder, and, groping with his hands, pulled out two fine young ones, about three feet in length. One of these young monsters was nearly dead, having been pierced with an arrow, which had entered its mother's side; but the other, though brought into the world before its time, seized old Yan by the leg. He sung out with all his might for assistance, when one of his sons sprang forward, and, grasping it by the throat with his hands, squeezed it with such force that this wicked chicken opened its mouth, and in a few minutes expired from strangulation.

This was a warning to me to be cautious where I bathed in future. Old Yan bound up his lacerated leg with some leaves, and, desired two of his sons to bring home the young ones. We returned to our settlement, and, swallowing a hasty breakfast, embarked in canoes, with our whole party, to see the effects of the hiare poison on the fish. Pull-

ing over to the fall of Teakera-Lanny, I placed the canoes at a spot at some distance below it, which had been pointed out to me the day before; each canoe being provided with a large stone, having a rope fastened to it, which was now thrown overboard, we all lay as at anchor in the stream. One canoe, with several stout fellows, was sent up above the fall, and we presently saw them pounding the hiare on a rock which stood in the water several feet above it. When it was reduced to a substance resembling the threads of an aloe, they threw it into their canoe, and, nearly filling it with water, they kept stirring it about, until it assumed the appearance of milk, but of a yellowish colour. A signal was then given by one of them that all was ready; and, standing up in our canoes, armed with fish-spears, bows and arrows, we awaited the result. The coloured people, at the head of the steep rapid or fall, placing their canoe as near to its edge as they could with safety, began throwing out

the infusion as fast as possible with calabashes.

It must have been instantly swallowed by the fish on being thrown over. The finny tribes being generally on the look-out, immediately under these rapids, for whatever passes down them, and the force of the falling water driving the hiare liquor to the bottom, it must have affected all those near the spot; for in a few minutes the surface of the water appeared alive with them; some skimming backwards and forwards, and some even leaping high above it.

We had been previously ordered to keep silent and still, as the least noise would have frightened the fish, and driven them up again to the fall, and, by these means getting into fresh water, they would have all immediately recovered and dived to the bottom.

They now approached us fast, being brought down with the rapid current of the river in the impregnated water which surrounded them; and the signal was given by our colonel, who,

standing up in his canoe, struck the first that came within his reach. In ten minutes we had upwards of two hundred in our four canoes. Great numbers passed us, as we were not able to strike them all, and of course recovered. Delighted with our success, we returned to Eta Bali, to overhaul our prizes.

On landing them, we found thirty pacoos, already described; fifty-one cartebaks, which in shape resemble the pacoos, but are not so large, and much more silvery in colour; there were also specimens of the following species: the kibihi, a fish of most splendid colours and beautiful shape, resembling the mackarel, and full as large as a small salmon: the dorsal fin is of a bright yellow, nearly orange, and those under its belly of a brilliant lake colour; its cheeks are of the brightest yellow or gold colour, and its body of a beautiful green, shaded off with the above-mentioned colour.

The curo-curo, rather a smaller fish than the kibihi, is evidently one which resorts to

the bottom of these rivers, being without scales, and having a dorsal fin the whole length of its back; its nose is turned up, and in colour it exactly resembles an eel.

The wata-wata is a prodigious fish for fresh water, being nearly seven feet in length, having a large and frightful head, with a round nose; it is covered with large scales, of the size of a half-crown, and is of a dirty greenish brown colour, with exceedingly small but brilliant eyes; and it struck us as being a fresh-water shark.

There were others of smaller kinds, but not worth mentioning; and we found that we had killed, in the short space that we had them in our power, two hundred and eleven. We could not help observing, during the time we were thus employed, the number of fish-hawks that were hovering over us, and sometimes darting down upon a fish which had passed us; and I remarked two or three which mounted into the air with a prize too large for them to carry, so that they were

soon obliged to let it drop. Our colonel ordered all the best fish to be picked out, and, setting all hands to work at salting, almost every basket we had was soon filled with them, to be taken back to Demerara. The remainder were consumed at dinner time by ourselves and our assistants.

The hiare is a plant of the bush-rope or nebe species, the root of which, as we have shown, is used by the natives for stupifying or intoxicating fish; and, after being prepared by beating with sticks for this purpose, it smells so like liquorice root, that I at first thought it must be the same plant. There is no danger whatever in eating the fish that have been affected by it, as it communicates no quality whatever to their flesh.

The acting lieutenant-governor, having determined on returning down the river on the following morning, now ordered into his presence the chiefs of the two settlements of the free coloured people; and, informing them that, being quite certain of their being the

cause of the hostile disposition of the Indians towards them, if any similar reports should reach him, he would consider them and their people as being unworthy of residing under his government, and immediately send up troops to drive them from these colonies: “for,” added he, “if you break the laws, you cannot expect the laws to protect you. I hope,” continued the good old man, “that you will now be wiser, and not permit your young men to commit such outrages on your neighbours.” Both promised obedience, and I believe they have ever since kept their word.

Preparations were now made for our departure the next morning, and we retired early to bed. Various noises soon struck my ear, and, as I lay listening with great curiosity, I heard a bird's voice, saying, “Willy, Willy, Willy, come go—Willy, Willy, Willy, come go”—and, as the beauteous moon threw her silvery light on the thick foliage of the trees, I heard another answer, “Who, who, who, who are you?—Who, who,

who, who are you?" Presently the sighing of an alligator, like the breaking of a love-sick maiden's heart, seemed to disturb them both, for I heard them no more. Soon the roaring of the tiger made the woods re-echo, and the chattering of monkeys, and the howling of the red baboon, were heard from time to time, frequently diversified with the hooting of the owl, the croaking of the crapauds, and the loud hissing of the snake. But what most delighted me were the notes of a little songster pouring forth the sweetest and most plaintive sounds. I sat up in my hammock to listen to its melody, by which I was exceedingly delighted, as I had almost concluded that there were no birds of song in this country, but was rejoiced at this proof of the contrary.

In the morning of the 3d of December, we awoke early, when I was much surprised by my friend, Lieutenant Baillie, calling out, "A snake! a snake! look at the snake!" We all stared at him, lying in his hammock, and, to our astonishment, beheld a monstrous serpent



twisted round the rope which supported his hammock, with its head at some distance above my friend's, darting out its forked tongue, and examining him as he lay stretched below. "Lie still," cried the fiscal; "he won't hurt you;" and, calling in two or three of the natives, he pointed it out to them. One of these men advancing towards it, caught its eye with his own: the animal now appeared to move its whole body with fear or pleasure. The native stepped backwards, without turning the sight of his eye from the fierce orbit of his enemy; and, as he kept backing, the snake, with his head steadily advancing, gradually uncoiled his body from the rope round which it was twined. At length its whole body, trailing on the ground, moved slowly along after this coloured man—eye fixed upon eye—until a youth, making a dash from behind a bush, in an instant flattened the head of this dangerous monster with one blow of his club; and, although the body still undulated like the waves of the sea, it was now perfectly harm-

less, not being able to seize with its mouth. They immediately hauled him up to the branch of a tree, and, as our cooks in Europe serve an eel, they skinned him whilst the poor animal was writhing in the agonies of pain.

This snake was called the libare, and measured nineteen feet and a half in length; its back being beautifully marked with chesnut-coloured blotches, upon a white ground: the under parts were a dirty yellow; and it was one of the poisonous kinds which inhabit these forests.

Several passages in Scripture allude to the commonly received opinion in the East, that serpents are capable of being rendered docile, or at least harmless, by certain charms or incantations. The most remarkable of these is in Psalm LVIII, where the wicked are compared to the poison of a serpent, "even like the deaf adder, that stoppeth her ears, which refuseth to hear the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wisely." And, again, in

Jeremiah, chapter VIII, "For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the Lord."

In India, at the present day, I am told that the serpent-charmers form a well known division of the numerous caste of jugglers to be found in every district; and, in the "Oriental Memoirs," by Mr. Forbes, he appears to attach some credit to their power of alluring the cobra capello and other snakes from their hiding-places, somewhat in the manner which the poor simple Indian practised this morning.

Dr. Shaw, in his "Travels through Barbary," says, that "a belief that venomous serpents might be rendered innoxious by songs or muttered words, or by written sentences or combinations of numbers upon scrolls of paper, prevailed through all those parts of the country which he visited;" and I have myself seen, in Gibraltar, a Moor exhibiting his tame serpents, with another man playing on an instrument, whilst the snakes were

sporting and twisting themselves round his naked limbs and throat.

In India, the Hindoos are professed snake-catchers, wonderfully clever in seizing them, and teaching them the art of legerdemain : but Johnson, in his "Sketches of Indian Field Sports," says, "They pretend to draw them from their holes by an instrument some what resembling an Irish bagpipe, on which they play a plaintive tune. The truth is, this is all done to deceive ; if ever a snake comes out of a hole at the sound of their music, you may be certain that it is a tame one trained to it, deprived of its teeth, and put there for the purpose."

This account of Johnson's certainly appears the more probable version of this extraordinary fact ; still it cannot shake my opinion of the power which the human eye has over this animal.

Captain Stedman, in his account of Surinam, mentions a bird sitting on the branch of a tree, which he observed fluttering with its

head down, looking at a snake, which so fascinated it that at last it fell from the branch into its enemy's mouth. Why, then, should not one animal possess the same power as another?

I must make another observation before quitting this subject, which is, that the smaller the snake, the more poisonous and fatal its bite, as Thompson beautifully observes —

but still more direful he,  
The small, close lurking minister of fate,  
Whose high concocted venom through the veins  
A rapid lightning darts, arresting swift  
The vital current.

I have heard of a circumstance, though I cannot now recollect with certainty the place where it occurred, but think it was at the capture of St. Kitts, where many of our soldiers, after landing, fell asleep upon the grass, and some of them, being bitten by an extremely small snake, not more than three inches long, died in consequence.

The occupation of a snake-charmer is not, perhaps, attended with so much peril as this

young coloured man exposed himself to in drawing the huge serpent from our hut, as the charmers generally seize the snake by surprise before drawing its teeth ; whereas, in this instance, it followed him, and, had not his friend been near, what might not have been the consequence !

## CHAPTER VII.

Departure from Eta Bali—Descent of the Rapids—Dangerous Passage of the Towanerie, or Third Fall—Skill of the Natives in Managing the Canoes—Silver Clay—Parting with old Billstains and the Chief of Agitos—Remains of Ampa, the Ancient Seat of the Government—Vermin—A Squall—Fort Island—Return to Demerara—Remarks on Vegetable Fecundity—The Author promoted to a Company—Intended Insurrection of the Negroes—Remarkable manner of its Discovery—Precautionary Measures taken by the Governor—Reported Approach of the Insurgents—Apprehension, Trial, and Execution, of the Ringleaders—Mysterious Document.

ON the 3d of December, we were up before daylight, and, after embarking all our goods and chattels, we shoved off from Eta Bali, and stood down the right bank of the river, on which the current was much the stronger. We had not proceeded far before the loud sighing of an alligator struck our ears; and the sun's rays were beginning to enlighten the horizon, when we beheld a monster, at

least twenty feet in length, crawling up the opposite bank. The four young Creole natives pulled like lightning towards him; but, just as we got within shot, his ears having acquainted him with our approach, he instantly turned round and plunged into the water.

We soon came to the first rapid, which was passed like a flash of lightning; this was the Poremoura, or sixth fall, mentioned in our ascent. A short time afterwards, away we went down the fifth fall or rapid, called Goo-yewag: then followed the fourth, Maranerie, near which stood the frightful rock upon which the unfortunate Portuguese officer had been wrecked; but our young natives, having the advantage of knowing these rapids well, kept us safe from danger; and, although we were proceeding at the rate at which the steam-carriages now travel between Manchester and Liverpool, I felt myself perfectly secure, though seated within a few inches of the water, in a canoe hardly two feet in width.



We were ordered to lie down, which I refused to do, being determined to see the dangers that we should have to encounter.

My head now began to turn round like a tetotum, for we were flying at the rate of thirty miles an hour, and we soon arrived on the brink of the third fall, called Towanerie. I believe it would have pleased me more to have landed, if I could have done it, and met a dozen tigers on the sands, than to run, as I thought we were doing, into certain perdition. I had just time to catch hold with both hands of the sides of the canoe, and, bellowing out to my companion, de Fallois, who had obeyed the orders received from the steersman, and laid himself at full length on his back, "Now for it!" I exclaimed; "here we go to perdition!" These words had scarcely left my lips, when, with a velocity which would astound the reader, if I had had time and instruments to calculate it, we shot head foremost down the rapid of Towanerie, which was the third fall in our ascent.

I saw nothing more of the objects around me, and hardly knew what happened, until I again found myself with the canoe half full of water, floating quietly down the stream, with my Dutch friend behind me, singing out in a most piteous voice, "Oh mine fader! mine fader!" and I learned that we had had a narrow escape among the furious waters of this rapid, which dashed, and foamed, and boiled, among the steep and craggy rocks that surrounded it; our light canoe having been impelled with such force as to drive her pointed head under water. We were now considerably ahead of our friends, who were not yet in sight; and, steering for land, we stepped out, whilst the Creole natives upset their canoe to empty her of the water; and de Fallois, stripping himself, jumped into the river, as he said, to wet himself all over, while we wrung his clothes. He had hardly finished his toilet, when we perceived a canoe in the distance, and soon saw it followed by three others, paddling up near to this dan-

gerous rapid. We waited to see them all pass, which they did safely, being much larger than ours.

The Towanerie is only a branch of this splendid river, the rocks to the right of it standing in the middle like islands, over which the water tumbles in several places: but the fall is too steep and too impetuous to permit a passage either up or down.

The Powanerie, or second rapid, we all passed easily, and shortly afterwards arrived at Itaca, the beautiful little island upon which we found the orange-trees, whose delicious blossom perfumed the air as we descended the first rapid.

All our dangers were now past; and I have often since considered the risks we exposed ourselves to in making this descent, which is a thousand times more perilous than ascending. The natives, from their constant habit of passing them, perhaps become familiar with their danger, as an old soldier learns to make light of his enemy's powder and shot. They

were excellent swimmers ; I was a bad one. They were without a stitch of clothing, I in boots and regimentals ; and, had the canoe gone under water, in all probability my Dutch friend, with myself, would have made a charming dinner for a cayman and his family.

What pleased me most in this dangerous descent was to observe the wonderful quickness, strength, and agility, with which we were guided by our pilot, a young free coloured man about twenty years of age ; and I admired his management of the canoe, to keep her head straight with the current ; for if she had turned to one side, which sometimes happens to the inexperienced helmsman, we must have gone to the bottom ; or, if we had touched against a stone, the same fate would have befallen us. In the larger canoes they had two steersmen, one at the head and the other in the stern, most of these old and experienced men. We were just four hours in coming down this rapid current, and landed at nine o'clock at Koumaka Serima. Here

we breakfasted, and gave orders to prepare the schooners for descending the river the next morning.

One of the natives, who had been out hunting, returned about two in the afternoon with a lump of silver clay in his hand, which he informed us was the produce of a spring about three hours distant in the woods. We found it strongly impregnated with that ore, and my cayman friend, daddy Yan, declared that he knew the place well, and that even the water silvered every thing that was dipped into it. Thinks I to myself, what would the Sheffield people give for such a spring in England?

Early on the 4th of December, we embarked on board our three schooners, and, deviating from the course we had pursued in ascending, we steered down the right or east bank, along which the current was much stronger in our favour. Old Billstains and the chief of Agitos were embarked in the governor's schooner, with both their curial

and canoe tied astern of us. We ran rapidly down with the stream, and, in two hours, arrived off Billstains' settlement. The colonel ordered up a hamper of Madeira, and half a dozen bottles of good French brandy; and I presented him with all the powder and shot in my possession, begging Lieutenant Baillie to present him also with his. The poor old man shook hands with us all round, wishing us health and happiness. "Mein lieber freund," said he, "I shall never see you again;" and, with tears in his eyes, stepping into his curial, he was pulled to his settlement by his Arrawaka Indians. We presently turned the elbow of the river, and, steering onwards with all our sail set, in about two hours and a half arrived off the settlement Agitos; when the chief, going through the same parting ceremony, jumped into his canoe, in which the colonel had ordered a small barrel of rum to be placed, and was paddled off by three of his men, who set up a shout, in the usual style of the Indians.

This night we passed as we had done on the Corantine river, the colonel and the commander sleeping in the cabin, and some of us rolled in our cloaks on the deck ; and, getting into the influence of the tide, we were obliged to anchor for a short time.

Next morning, the 5th of December, the sun again rising in all his magnificence, we found ourselves opposite to the Masserony river, and determined to visit the ancient seat of government, called Ampa. Having anchored our schooner close to the shore, we found great difficulty in landing, from the thickness of the underwood quite down to the water's edge. Not a vestige now remained of any buildings, which, having been constructed entirely of wood, must have soon fallen to decay, or more probably been carried away. At last, one of the party found an old foundation of brick, now quite covered with leaves and trees : this we were informed had been the first christian church built in these colonies. The only things like dwellings,

which we were enabled to discover, were a few Indian huts, or wigwams, now also deserted, which we deemed a fortunate circumstance, as we expected to find them a convenient shelter from a heavy storm that was fast approaching; but, to our astonishment, we had hardly got under the manicol thatch, before we found our legs covered with fleas and jiggers: and, choosing rather to get wet to the skin than to be tormented by those insects, we all rushed into the rain, which presently descended in torrents. The squall ended, we again embarked, and, getting under weigh, stood down for Fort Island, where we arrived after a tedious sail against tide at six o'clock in the evening, and occupied the same beds on shore as we had done eleven nights before, previously to our departure.

On the following morning, after many good wishes, and other marks of kindness from our friends, the whole of them accompanied us to the water's edge; and, at nine o'clock, as



the acting governor stepped into his boat, the two old petararoes again opened their mouths to pay their salutation to him. In three hours we landed on the main at Perica Point, where Mr. Wells, with his usual kindness, provided an early dinner for us. The colonel afterwards giving Mr. Strahan a seat in his chaise, and myself being mounted on my horse, Cricket, we reached Demerara by seven in the evening, and crossed the river to Government house. Here we found every thing in *statu quo*, under Eddington's care.

During this journey I was struck with the wonderful rapidity with which each individual tree and plant had the power of multiplying its species. I have read of a single grain of potato-oats, in Ireland, producing thirty-two stalks, all growing from the same root, which yielded five thousand grains; and it is asserted, by Sir Kenelm Digby, that in France, in the year 1660, there was in possession of the Fathers of the Christian Doctrine at Paris a plant of barley, which they at that time kept

as a curiosity, consisting of two hundred and forty-nine stalks springing from one grain; upon these the sum total was eighteen thousand barleycorns.

But this is nothing in comparison with the innumerable quantities of seeds of various trees and plants, which here fall to the earth without finding space enough to take root; many of them in the rainy season, excited by the moisture, throwing out a pale and sickly shoot, which withers and dies for want of nourishment in the dry season.

There is no doubt that, in this country, if the whole crop of many a single fast-growing plant were put into the earth, and the second produce were made to yield a harvest, and so on, in the space of a very few years the entire surface of the earth would be too limited for the sowing of the seeds thus abundantly supplied.

I have seen a calculation relative to the common English weed called henbane. By experiment it was proved that the seeds of

one plant would produce, in the short period of four years, more plants than the surface of the earth could contain, allowing seven roots to each square foot.

If multiplication is so rapid in England, what must be the produce in South America, where climate and soil are so much more congenial to vegetation ?

In the papers delivered to us on our return, I found my name gazetted to a company, by purchase, dated 30th of September, 1807, and also a letter from my father, informing me that he had lodged the money in consequence of one of the Duke of Kent's kind letters, pressing him to do so, and at the same time pointing out the great advantage it would be to me to get this company, over the heads of eleven lieutenants, who would not purchase. He concluded by saying, " My dear boy, whatever I can do you may be certain I will, to put you forward in the world."

On the 23d of December, 1807, seventeen days after our return from Essequibo, a

young Scotchman, overseer of a plantation on the east coast, who had arrived in a great hurry, requested to see the governor. On admission, he reported that, without a doubt, there would be a rising among the Negroes on Christmas-eve, and that their intention was to march down to Stabroek on Christmas-day, as they knew that we Buckras made it a day of rejoicing and dinner-parties, when it would be easy for them to cut all our throats, and free themselves. "How have you learned this?" inquired the governor.

"By means of a young Negress, my friend," he answered, "who, for these two days past, has been most anxious that I should come down to Stabroek. It struck me as singular that she should be so solicitous for my absenting myself; and, this morning early, as she again renewed her request, I locked the door of my room, and, taking down my pistols, after priming them, I turned round to her, and said, 'Now confess to me why you wish my absence, or I will instantly shoot

you.' She was greatly alarmed, knelt down, and begged me not to repeat a word of what she should mention, to which I answered, 'Go on.' She then stated to me that her father had arranged a plan for a rising on Christmas-day amongst numerous friends of his on the east coast; that they were to massacre all the Whites, and march down to Stabroek, where, in the evening, he expected to find you all drunk, and, therefore, there would be the less difficulty to put you to death. The Negroes were then to divide the estates among themselves, and be free men, and work no more for the Buckras."

The colonel, though he could scarcely believe that so rash an attempt was really contemplated, nevertheless deemed it necessary to take precautionary measures; and, sending for the fiscal, directed him to proceed up the east coast immediately, with a strong detachment of troops, to seize as many of the ring-leaders as could be found; for the young overseer had given several of their names,

suggesting that he might take them unawares, early in the morning, when turning out for work. Strong piquets also were ordered to watch the roads leading to the town.

I was sent twice or three times with orders to the garrison, and, being then a thoughtless young fellow, was pleased beyond measure with the work which the Blacks had made for me. Next morning the governor inspected the garrison, which, at this time, though more than half of it consisted of our own regiment, was by no means in the best state; the detachments of the 1st Battalion Royal Regiment and 4th West India Regiment being under eight hundred men on parade.

The guard in Fort William Frederick was trebled in numbers, and every preparation made for the reception of the insurgents.

On returning to my quarters in the camp near Fort William Frederick, I was seated in the gallery leaning over the railing that surrounded it, with a cigar in my mouth, musing on the splendour of a tropical sky, the moon's

pale and silvery light rendering every object as clear to view as the sun at mid-day. Whilst enjoying the magnificence of the sublime scene before me, the trotting of a horse struck on my ears. It approached upon the east road. The wooden bridge leading through the camp to Fort William Frederick now resounded like a drum, responding to every hasty tramp of the animal's feet. It approached, and, passing under my balcony, I perceived that the rider was Captain Ince, quarter-master-general of our regiment, and, hailing him, inquired why he was in such a hurry. "Get the troops under arms!" exclaimed he; "they are coming!" In an instant he had passed and was within the fort. I buckled on my sword, and, ordering my horse, mounted, and proceeded up the east coast road, to ascertain the fact before alarming the governor. On arriving at the spot where the two roads meet—the one by which I had come leading past the camp and up the bank of the river to the town; the other

going to the barracks, which contained the detachments of the Royal Regiment and 4th West India Regiment, and so on to Stabroek, being the same on which I received such a drubbing from the three apprentices, as related in the preceding volume—I pulled up my horse, and sat trying if I could see or hear any people approaching. On this spot was a strong piquet commanded by a subaltern, whom I asked if all was quiet. “I do not know,” said he. “Captain Ince has just passed, and told us to be prepared, for that the Blacks were coming down the road.” He had scarcely uttered these words, when we beheld the advanced serjeant with five men retreating fast upon his piquet. “What news?” cried I, riding forward. “Oh!” he replied, “I believe all the Blacks in Africa are coming down the road.” I pushed forward to look at them, and saw a large mob of people moving towards me, one of them advancing rapidly on horseback. As he approached nearer to me I saw his white



pantaloon, and a white feather in his hat, and discovered him to be my friend, Lieutenant Allen, of the 4th West India Regiment. "I am sent on," said he, "to prevent your firing on us. It is the fiscal and twenty Negro prisoners, whom we have secured." "All is right," said I, and off I started to inform the governor.

Long and tedious were the trials of these unfortunate men. The girl's evidence went strongly against them; and, at length, her unhappy father and eight others were condemned to death and executed.

During these proceedings a curious document, addressed by these people to their countrymen down the leeward coast of the Essequibo, had been found in one of the Negro huts, and sent to Colonel Nicholson, in hopes that it might elicit some information concerning the intended revolt. It was half a sheet of writing paper, scribbled over with characters resembling Arabic, but not a soul in the colony could make out what

it meant, though Colonel Nicholson offered a reward to any person, white or black, who should explain it.

The prompt measures taken by our colonel at once quashed this intended revolution, which, if it had broken out, might, perhaps, have terminated like that of St. Domingo.

## CHAPTER VIII.

Intention of Colonel Nicholson to visit Mr. Edmonstone—  
Voyage up the Demerara River—Negro Rowers—Fredestein  
Plantation—Reception by the Owner—Introduction to the  
Family—Dinner Party—Naked Female Attendants—The  
Young Widow and her Squirrel—A Happy Household—  
Visit to the Plantation—Cultivation of Coffee—Preparation  
of the Berries—Praise of Coffee—Departure from Fredestein—  
Practice of having Naked Female Domestics accounted  
for—Arrival at Plantation Georgia.

TRANQUILLITY being again restored to this agitated colony, the colonel determined upon going up the Demerara river, in order to visit his old and esteemed friend, Mr. Edmonstone, who was residing on his wood-cutting estate up the Mibiri creek. This gentleman had on several occasions shown great courage against the runaway slaves, and an intimate knowledge of their habits and manners, and proved himself a zealous defender of our authority and possessions. So early

as 1801, he commanded a small party sent by General Hislop to attack a settlement made by some runaway slaves up this river, in which service he was severely wounded; and, in 1809, he was presented by the governor with a handsome sword, accompanied by a silver mug, in token of his esteem.

It is my opinion that this trip was undertaken by our good colonel as much for the purpose of consulting with Mr. Edmonstone upon what had lately happened as for any pleasure he should derive from showing me this river.

Be the reason, however, what it might, the effect was the same, as the old steersman of the governor's boat, being consulted as to the best day and hour for starting, since the tide in these rivers must always be considered, he fixed on the second succeeding day at five o'clock in the morning.

Accordingly, on the 13th April, 1808, we embarked in the governor's tented boat, pulled by eight Negro slaves; and, running

up to plantation Rome, above the town, we here crossed the river to Diamond Point, on the left bank, up which we kept. As the sun increased in power the labour of our boatmen became more fatiguing. Colonel Nicholson and I breakfasted in the boat, and he ordered his servant, Ogilvie, to give the boatmen something to eat and a glass of rum each. After this refreshment, the bowman commenced with a verse of his own composition, which was repeated by the whole crew, and they made us laugh heartily at some of their Negro poetry, which was meant as a panegyric on the governor and myself. The heat of the day was overpowering, and every now and then one of these men, who were built like Hercules, would spring from the boat dripping with perspiration, and rising from the water immediately place himself again on his bench and pull with renewed vigour. These Negroes, in rowing, never stop from the moment they set out till the company is landed at the place of destination, and continue, even against the

tide, tugging, sometimes night and day, for twenty-four hours together, all the time singing in chorus the most absurd verses composed by themselves, to keep up their spirits. As soon as their labour is finished, their naked bodies dripping with foam and perspiration, they one and all plunge headlong into the river to refresh themselves, just as our post-horses are treated in England.

It was past three o'clock in the afternoon before we arrived at Fredestein plantation, where we found the owner, an old Dutchman, ready to receive us; and the colonel begged him to send a Negro up to Plantation Georgia, to inform the owner that he would dine and sleep there on the morrow.

The scenery I have not hitherto mentioned, as it was thus far by no means so wild, picturesque, or beautiful, as that near the Corantine or Essequibo rivers; stiff cultivation, down to the water's edge, being far inferior to the plantations of Nature's making in this country.

On landing, we were received by a gentleman-like elderly Dutchman, the owner of the plantation, dressed in a West India garb, which is, a pair of thin white trowsers, with feet to them, instead of stockings, a shirt, but no neckcloth, a cotton dressing-gown or coat, with a straw hat, having a brim like an umbrella. He was gratified by the honour we did him, and, being followed by two young women, one with a large mug, the other with a tray and a couple of glasses, he begged us to drink to our better acquaintance. I found the liquor to be the most delicious sangaree I had ever tasted. He then proposed to the colonel to walk up to the house, where he would introduce us to the ladies. A straight avenue from the river led us to the doorway, beautifully planted with flowering shrubs. Every thing on the outside bespoke wealth and comfort; and, on reaching the inside, we perceived that the same neatness and excellent arrangement were still preserved. This and the Dutch Governor's house at Rome,

near Stabroek, were the only two dwellings I had seen in this country in which there was any approach to the style and arrangement of European residences. On being ushered into the parlour, we there found seated four European ladies, to the eldest of whom we were introduced as the wife of our host, and to two pretty young girls as his daughters. The fourth we found to be a blooming young widow, with a smiling and happy countenance: for, as Stedman says, a woman in this country does not mourn long for her husband; but, as soon as the funeral is over, begins to look round among the crowd for another. She was about my own age, spoke very good English, and was full of wit and fun. After a quarter of an hour's conversation, we were as intimate as if we had been acquainted for twenty years; and it struck me that she, like the tropical mosquitoes, as I have before observed, had an instinctive preference for a young or newly-arrived European.



They all soon retired to take their siesta or forenoon's nap, during the excessive heat of the day. We assembled about five o'clock in the withdrawing-room, and were presently summoned to the dining table, which was abundantly covered with all the luxuries of this country. Four young girls attended us, as naked as they came into the world. I was astonished at such an exhibition before persons of their own sex ; and, although I recollected Stedman's mentioning a similar circumstance, in his expedition to Surinam, I was rather startled at this unusual custom. Their little figures appeared beautifully formed, as they moved round the table, with my eyes fixed upon them ; until the young widow, observing my abstraction and consequent silence, burst into a loud laugh, and made me blush exceedingly. I was determined to be revenged on her, and an opportunity soon offered itself. The four black girls, having placed a most delicious dessert on the table, left the room, when the widow, taking a

squirrel out of a cage that hung in the room, brought it to the table, where she began kissing it and patting it in her lap, and then, placing the pretty little creature on the table, she left it to make its own choice among the fruit. After some graceful antics among the dishes on the table, it at last approached a high centre one, standing on a foot, which was filled with delicious sowarrow nuts, ready cracked; and, jumping on its edge to help itself, its weight overturned the dish and nuts on the table, with a noise almost equal to the upsetting of a cart-load of stones. The poor little squirrel was frightened out of its wits with the horrid racket they made tumbling on the table: with one spring it was on the floor, and with another it had hid itself beneath the drapery of its mistress. Clapping her hands down, she exclaimed, "Oh! the beast!" Immediately throwing myself on one knee, holding my hand down to her feet, and looking at her in an arch manner, I said, "Shall I pull him down?" At this question,

our companions at the head and foot of the table burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, and I expected that the old colonel would have dropped off his chair; when the widow suddenly jumped up, and ran out of the room. The two young ladies enjoyed the humour of the joke as much as the elders. The widow soon returned, smiling, with the squirrel in her hand, and many were the sallies that followed upon his impudence. We spent the evening in music, singing, and smoking, and retired to our hammocks about eleven o'clock.

Next morning, just at sun-rise, one of the pretty little black Venuses knocked at my door, and entering and tripping up to me with a cup of coffee on a silver tray, she smiled and offered it to me. "Well," said I, "you all look very happy in this house." "Yes," replied the poor girl, with an expression of joy in her countenance, "him all good. Missee good, Missee Chatrine good, Missee Sopic good, and Neger happy."

The party soon afterwards assembled, and

a walk before breakfast was proposed. On turning round the back of the house, I perceived one of my friends, a red baboon or monkey, tied round the waist to a stump, on the top of which he was sitting. I found that this property was a coffee-plantation. The shrubs bearing that berry were planted at regular distances, in large fields, on each side of us. I picked some of the fruit to examine them, and found in each two grains, with their flat sides together, surrounded by a green husk. The bushes were dark, covered with leaves, the under parts of which were much lighter than the upper.

The coffee-tree, or rather shrub, is not permitted to grow beyond the reach of man, to facilitate the gathering of it. Its leaves are of an elegant shape, the outside being polished like laurel. The berries grow on the stem, where the leaves sprout from it; each contains two kernels, which are first green and afterwards change to a beautiful red. A good tree is said to yield four pounds weight

at each crop; and, like all other vegetable productions in this luxuriant climate, it bears two crops in the year—at Midsummer and Christmas.

On a large square, or rather oblong, piece of ground, surrounded with a broad trench, stood first the planter's house, with a straight avenue of orange-trees running from it to a bridge, which communicated with the fields, or plantation. On each side of this road were situated, close to it, the overseer's and book-keeper's houses, with storehouses standing opposite to one another. Beyond these were the kitchen on one side, the storehouse on the other; then came the poultry-house and hogsty; next, the pigeon-house and granary. Behind these two rows of building on one side were the poultry-yard and the hog-yard.

We then came into a square patch of ground planted with orange and plantain-trees. On one side of it were two rows of Negro huts, with gardens behind them; on the other side, the bruising-lodge, for separa-

ting the coffee-berries from their husks, and behind this the drying-lodge, having in its rear a square yard, covered with hard clay, upon which in the dry season the coffee was exposed to the sun. The stables, the hospital for sick Negroes, the sheep and bullock fold, were farther off, being close upon the rear face of the canal. The plan was regular and convenient; and the bridge, being made to draw up, might have contributed to the defence of this house and property. Some of these buildings are very expensive, such as the coffee-lodge, which latter had, as I was informed, cost nearly £5,000. On crossing the bridge to the coffee-fields, I found them as regularly laid out as lines and measurement could make them; each piece containing about two thousand bushes, growing at the distance of eight or ten feet from each other, which allows them room to spread out, although they are kept short, and also space for a man to walk round, to pick the berries, which are then taken to the bruising-lodge,

where the kernels are separated from the husk. They are next steeped in water to cleanse them, and then spread on the drying-floor, which is exposed to the sun; or, in the wet season, put on large wooden trays, which, in case of rain, are immediately hauled under cover of the drying-house, and during this time they are turned every day with wooden shovels.

When dried, the berries are put into wooden mortars, and beaten with heavy wooden pestles, to divest them of a thin skin which unites the two kernels. At this work the Negroes beat in wonderful time, and always singing in chorus. The berries are next cleared from the chaff; and the whole, being picked from the broken ones, which latter are used in the country, are packed in casks for exportation.

Coffee is so well known in Europe that it is unnecessary to enter upon its qualities or effects upon the human frame. Bacon asserted that coffee comforts the head and heart.

Willis declares that, if daily drunk, it wonderfully clears and enlivens the soul. Voltaire lived upon it; the studious and sedentary of every nation now resort to it to refresh the spirits, oppressed by study and contemplation; and I only hope that we shall never feel the want of it.

We found the roads through this property bordered by rows of luxuriant fruit-trees: but, the sun beginning to dart down his penetrating rays, we returned to the house, where an excellent breakfast of pepper-pot, fish, fowl, and meats, awaited us; the same four young Negro girls attending upon us in the same state of nudity as on the preceding day.

The planter now begged the governor to spend three or four days at Fredestein, which he declined doing at present, alleging that he was anxious to see Mr. Edmonstone, adding that upon any other occasion he should be happy to accept his invitation. "Then," said he, "on your return down the river, will you



do me that honour?" All the ladies now attacked him: and I was happy to hear him promise to remain with them for two days.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, the boat having been ordered to be in readiness, we took leave of this family, with whom we had only become acquainted on the preceding day, like old friends, with shaking of hands and kind wishes for each other's health expressed on both sides.

Our eight black men, giving way manfully to the oar, we soon lost sight of Fredestein and its fair inhabitants, who kept waving their handkerchiefs from the window in reply to mine. We found the tide running down; but, with the rise and weight of our boatmen's bodies, we made way against it.

I remarked to the colonel the indelicacy of having naked girls to wait upon us. His reply was to this effect. "When the Dutch were in possession of these colonies, it was their common custom; and this estate is perhaps

the only one in which it is still kept up. The old planter is a Creole, and consequently wedded to ancient customs. The practice in question was adopted by the Dutch to prevent the girls having too early intercourse with the other sex, which spoils their shape, cramps their growth, and diminishes their strength. As they become old enough for marriage, they are each transferred to some Negro on the estate, who feels himself honoured by the alliance with a damsel brought up in the "big house:" but if the purity of such a girl is touched whilst attending her mistresses, which frequently happens, she immediately hides herself, and, after receiving a severe punishment, is sent into the fields to work, by way of degradation, and another is taken into the household in her place. Thus the effect of this custom is, after all, not bad in such a climate.

It was nearly seven o'clock before we landed on plantation Georgia, where we found an overseer ready to receive us, the

owner of the plantation being in Europe; and he informed us that early this morning he had been prepared for our reception by the Negro whom we had sent up from Fredestein. After dinner we retired early to rest.

## CHAPTER IX.

Comana Creek — Mibiri Creek — Shooting and skinning a Serpent—The Tiger-Bird — Old Glen—Mr. Edmonstone's Wood-cutting Settlement — History of Old Glen—His Early Prosperity, overthrown by a Book of Swedenborg's — Neglect of his Property — His utter ruin — Enters the Army — Tried by a Court-Martial, for being asleep upon duty— Sentence and Punishment—Retires to Mr. Edmonstone's Estate—His singular Habits and Way of Life.

NEXT morning, at day-light, we were in our boat, pulling up to Comana Creek, at the mouth of which lies another island. We turned into it, and, as we advanced, found the branches of the forest-trees almost touching each other over our heads. The bill-birds, or toucans, perched by dozens on their highest branches, were crying like so many puppies.

I had stationed myself on the bows of the boat, gun in hand, watching for a shot at any thing that might offer; but nothing

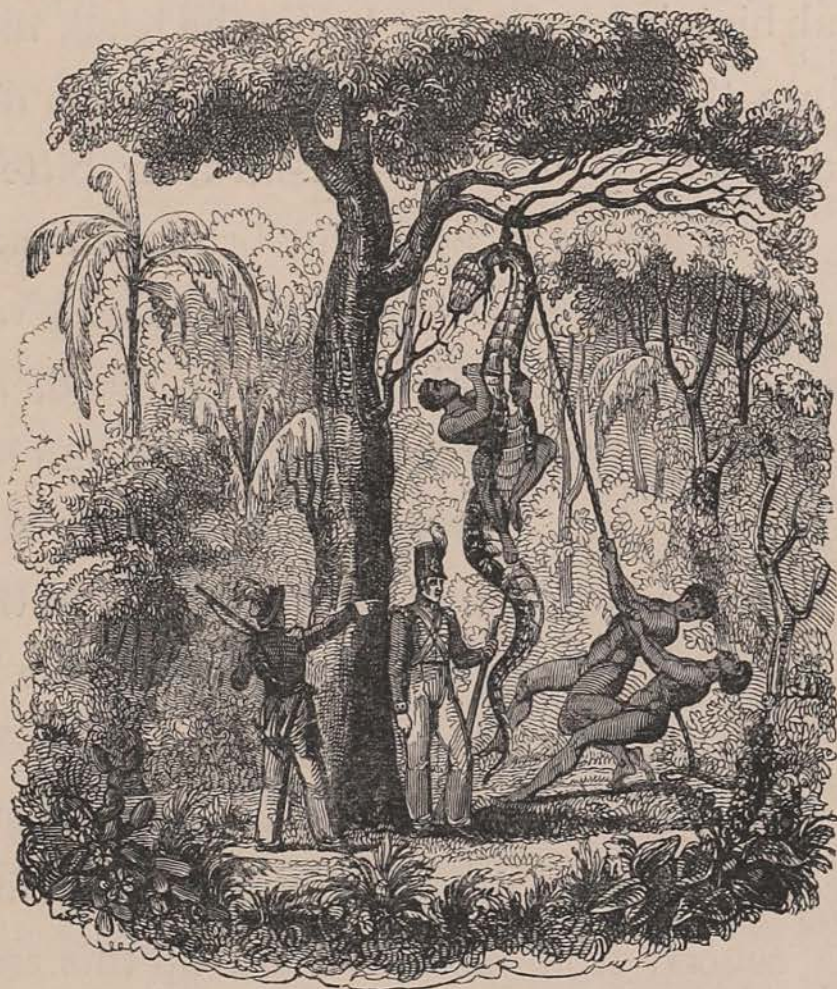
passed within reach, though I frequently heard the cries of birds and different animals, to the right and left of me. Towards evening, we left the Comana Creek, and struck off to the right into the Mibiri. This creek was much narrower, being not more than fifteen, and, in some places, ten feet across. We were, consequently, quite sheltered from the sun, the trees meeting over our heads. As I was thus on the look-out, an agitation in the water, close ahead of us, attracted my attention, and I saw the tail of a huge serpent, trailed slowly out of the water into the left-hand forest. The Negroes said he had been refreshing himself by lying across the creek, with his head on one side and his tail on the other, and disturbed by the noise of their paddles, which they were now obliged to use; adding, that he would not go far from the spot. Turning to the governor, I begged him to let me try and shoot the reptile; and, having directed the boatmen to pull to the place where we saw his tail, the colonel or-

dered two Negroes to go first and find him out. One of them soon returned with the report that he was close by. In the meantime, I had loaded my piece with a ball, and, taking my servant with me, armed with his musket and bayonet fixed, we entered the forest, through which it was difficult to advance. We presently reached the other Negro, who was standing behind a tree, from the side of which he was peeping. "Here, massa," he cried—"he big one!" and, pointing with his finger, I saw him about three yards off, rolled up like a rope in a coil, with his monstrous head raised, and looking at us. His eyes were bright and fierce, and he kept darting out of his mouth a pronged tongue. I desired my man, Donald, to take aim; but, not to fire till I should give him the word. We both presented, and, at my word, "Fire!" the head dropped to the ground. Donald now sprang upon him, and, with one thrust, pinned him through the head with his bayonet. The body was, meanwhile, heaving

and working about in the most extraordinary manner.

I was now considering what to do with the serpent, when a Negro, sent from the boat to see if we had killed him, arrived with a long rope twisted in his hand; and, recollecting how Stedman had skinned a serpent in the forest of Surinam, I sent up the tree a Negro with the end of it in his hand, desiring him to throw it over a branch, and let it drop, whilst the other two tied it just below his head, tight enough to choak him. This done, they laid hold of the other end of the rope dropped from the branch, and pulled it; Donald withdrew his bayonet, and the Negro above slipped down the body of the serpent, drawing his knife after him. We now lowered him, and took off his skin, which, in the thickest part, was large enough to meet round my body; we were just a quarter of an hour from the time we left the boat till we got back to it. Rolling up the head and skin, we took it with us. On mea-

suring this skin, which I did after our return, I found it thirty feet five inches in length; and I gave it to the boatmen, in order to have it properly dried.



We were again pulling up the creek, and at length arrived at a savannah, which had all the appearance of a lake. A large bird sprung up from some long grass, and Donald, who was seated at the stern with my gun,



fired, and I saw the bird fall in the water ahead of us. On pulling up to the spot, it raised its head to defend itself. The Negroes were all afraid to touch it, until one of them, grabbing hold of it just below the head, threw it into the bottom of the boat. It soon died, and I found it to be a tiger-bird, or bittern; its colours were a beautiful brown, marked, like the animal after which it is named, with black stripes. Its bill was long, hard, and exceedingly sharp-pointed; the neck and legs were long, and, though it looked very large on the wing, we found its body small and thin.

The deepest water was close along the left bank where we steered, and the sun's last rays were striking on the trees overhanging our heads. The report of the gun just fired was echoed from bank to bank up this tranquil scene before us, when I observed the bent figure of a man rising out of the rushes a long way ahead of us. On gaining the shore, he threw on a shirt, and, with the assistance of a stick, walked slowly up a high

bank, which had been cleared of its trees. The colonel, coming out of the tent of his boat, under which he had been sitting, informed me that it was that extraordinary man, Old Glen, of whom I had heard him speak; and, on approaching nearer to him, called out, "How are you, Mr. Glen? I hope you are well;" on which the old man, turning round, after a few moments' hesitation, looking to ascertain who we were, answered in a feeble voice, "Ah, Colonel! I am glad to see you again—'tis a long time since you have been here."

I now observed him well, standing on a high bank, about a hundred yards from us. He had no other garment but a shirt, which might have been once white. His long white hair hung over his shoulders, and he leant upon a long stick to support his emaciated frame. After a few more questions concerning Mr. Edmonstone, the old man soon disappeared from our sight.

The Negro huts, standing on the top of a

hill, presently appeared in view, and we soon arrived at this wood-cutting settlement. We found the owner standing at the edge of the water, ready to receive the governor, knowing the boat the moment he saw it. He told us, that he had ordered his cook to prepare a good dinner, on hearing the distant report of our gun. On ascending the hill to his house, several parrots in couples flew over our heads, crossing the savannah to their roosting places, every now and then making a muttering noise, as if in conversation with each other; and, though the house was small and old, nothing like the one at Fredestein, we found ourselves perfectly happy in Mr. Edmonstone's pleasant society.

After dinner, Colonel Nicholson begged our host to repeat to me the history of old Glen, "which," said he, "you can relate so much better than I can, that I have hardly said a word on the subject to my young companion. Our host smiled and thus began:—

"This old man, whom you have just seen

in such misery, is a native of Glasgow, in Scotland, and came out to this colony many years ago, as mate in a merchant ship. He was then a stout young man, not more than twenty years of age, and full of enterprize and speculation. The novelty and beauty of the New World delighted him, and the lovely scenes of Nature in this country bent his mind on settling among them. He visited most of the plantations which then existed, and, gaining knowledge in a small way from his observations and questions, he at length determined to apply to the principal owner of this colony—for at that time no governor was appointed from Holland—and a good tract of land was allotted for him. At this period Negroes were to be bought at less than half their price at the present moment; and he commenced with a few, clearing his property of the wood. His work thrived; and with the timber which he felled he built himself a small house, and made money of many other fine trees which he sold.

“ In seven years he was seated on his own plantation, in the midst of fine crops, which filled his pockets with money, and with Negroes enough to work the property. At the end of twenty years he was considered a man well to do in the world. About this period, on his going on board a Dutch ship lying in the river, he found, in the captain's cabin, a work on religion, written by the celebrated religious visionary, named Swedenborg, which he pressed the captain to give him, and was much rejoiced on being permitted to take it on shore with him. This book was the downfall of poor Glen's prosperity, and the cause of all his miseries. His mind never having been strengthened by a sound education, it is not surprising that a man like Swedenborg should so easily upset it.

“ The transmigration of the soul was the subject of that book. The author insists not only that it never dies, but that it never quits this earth ; for that, after the death of our bodies, our souls enter into other animals,

birds, or insects, according to the inclinations which we have followed, as human beings. Thus a timid person will become a hare; a gormandiser a vulture; a lecherous man an ass; a cruel one a beast of prey, and so on.

“ Who but a madman could listen to such absurdities as these, and become a follower of Swedenborg’s doctrines! Old Glen was now so much taken up with the study of these three thick volumes, that his estate went to ruin: each year his plantation yielded less and less. His Negroes, being neglected, would not work, and many of them, by degrees, abandoned his property and took to the woods: the remainder became filthy, indolent, and miserable. Many of his intimate friends, and among these myself for one, pointed out his folly and the inevitable ruin of all his prospects, which he was fast bringing on himself, but to no effect; for in Swedenborg were all his hopes, and in him only he trusted.

“ In this state of his affairs, a ship loaded with Swedenborg’s works arrived, consigned

to him from Holland: these he had ordered, being determined to spread the light of his doctrine over the face of South America, never recollecting that its inhabitants could neither read nor understand Dutch. The captain, after the delivery of his cargo, waited on Mr. Glen for his clearance, and informed him that the booksellers in Holland were anxious for their money. The estate by this time produced nothing but weeds: the captain was under the necessity of calling him before the court; and his property was condemned to be sold in order to liquidate this debt.

“The poor man, now reduced to extreme misery, became an inhabitant of Stabroek, where he held many public meetings among the Negroes and lower classes of Europeans, preaching to them the beauties of Swedenborg, and advising them all to adopt his tenets. His friends still tried to bring him back to the path of reason; but, finding their attempts useless, quite gave him up; and, at length,

without sixpence in the world, he was reduced to beggary. Finding his way up the sea coast to Berbice, through the charity of the planters, he offered himself and was accepted by the Dutch commandant, in Fort St. Andrews, to serve as a private in the colonial troops, and continued here doing duty, and preaching on his favourite topic to the Dutch garrison.

“ In this way of life he continued for a few years, when a mutiny among the Blacks in the colony caused the Dutch officers to be more on the alert, and to pay closer attention to their duty. Frequent visits were made by them to their guards and sentinels during the night, to prevent a surprise. This ill-fated man was one night placed as an advanced sentry on the rampart above the gate. The officer, attended by a serjeant and two rank and file, on going his rounds, arrived at Glen's post. Here he was much surprised at not being challenged, and, looking about to ascertain the cause of this neglect, he found



Glen fast asleep in his sentry-box. A court-martial was the consequence, and the delinquent was sentenced to run the gauntlet, which, at this period, was the usual military punishment. Two ranks being formed of the garrison, facing inwards at three paces distance, the prisoner, with his back bare, is obliged to follow a serjeant, who marches slowly down between the ranks, and each soldier must strike a blow at him with a stick as he passes.

“The parade was formed and sentence read, when the commanding officer, addressing himself to Glen, said that, in consideration of his age, and the situation he had once been in, he would not put so severe a sentence into execution, but, instead of flogging him, he would dismiss him the service. Glen replied: ‘Sir, I am ashamed of myself for what I have done, and I intreat you to let me receive the punishment due to such a crime, as an example to my comrades.’ All that the commandant could urge was incapable of altering

his determination, and the whole parade were astonished to see him strip off his upper garments with the greatest alacrity, and walk down between the ranks, where he even stopped and chid two or three of his companions for striking him so lightly.

“ For some time after his departure to Berbice I knew not what had become of him, until, hearing by the merest accident that he entered the service in that colony, I supposed that he wished to keep himself out of the sight and recollection of his former acquaintances. Some time afterwards I met him one evening in Stabroek, on his return to this colony, and inquired how he was, and what he intended doing. I told him I had a property up the Camona creek, buried in the forests, and pressed him to take up his residence on it. ‘ I will go up to your property,’ he replied, ‘ and live in the woods under your protection, but not in your house.’

“ Accordingly, I brought him up hither, about fifteen years ago. He chose a spot

nearly three miles from this house, in the forest, where he built himself a small hut, thatched in the Indian manner with palm-leaves. A hard-wood plank is his bed, and an old Bible his pillow. Here he has ever since resided, it being his daily practice, as soon as the morning sun shines on the savannah below, to walk down into the water; after washing himself, he kneels and says his prayers; and, as the sun sets, he again performs the same duty to his God.

“I have in vain employed all my arguments with him to use clothing, but his answer always is, ‘The Indians go naked, why should not I?’ and it has taken me months even to make him put on the shirt, which you saw him in to day.

“He is certainly a most extraordinary character, with a fund of intellectual sense and human kindness in his composition. He is perfectly acquainted with the nature and properties of the different plants, so much so indeed that there is scarcely a complaint to

which the Indians are subject that he does not cure. They all flock to him with their patients: his fame is spread far among these forests, and individuals of distant tribes have been brought to him for his remedies. You must go to-morrow morning, colonel, to see him; he will assuredly expect you, and you know as well as myself that he does not like disappointment." Then, turning to me, Mr. Edmonstone continued: "He will also be glad to see you. He will not fail to touch on his dear Swedenborg, but take care how you answer him. You will soon see through his madness, but be not alarmed, for he is quite harmless, and would not injure even a mouse."

## CHAPTER X.

Natural Scenery—The Vulture—Old Glen—Mr. Edmonstone's Settlement—Beautiful Birds—The Savannah—Process of its Formation—Visit to Old Glen—Advantage of wearing Flannel in Hot Climates—A Deer—Old Glen's Hut—Conversation with the Owner—His Account of the Indians—His Familiarity with Snakes and Wild Beasts—The Ant Bear—The Sloth—Mr. Brotherston's Plantation on the Camona Creek—Singular Tree—The Quacy-quacy, or Coatimondi—Observations of Sir Humphrey Davy on the Monuments of Nature.

NEXT morning, the 16th of April, I was up before the sun appeared above the horizon, and, with my gun on my arm, walked down some distance on the bank sloping to the savannah, until I arrived at a slip of trees extending to its margin. On the other side of these trees the bank was open for a considerable space. The sun's rays just now began to peep over an enormous mass of forest, which lay beneath me as far as my eye could reach

—a more beautiful and magnificent scene is scarcely to be imagined. Here and there, over this enormous carpet of superb trees, I could now and then plainly discover a toucan or bill-bird, sometimes a macaw, or other painted forester, rising above their stately branches, and immediately hiding themselves again under their sheltering cover, the distance being too great even to hear their screams. At times, too, the king of the vultures would make his appearance, hovering over a particular spot, to which the smell of carrion might have attracted him, and now swimming gracefully through the air: his flight is long and lofty, and his movements wonderfully majestic.

I have already mentioned these birds, which abound in these colonies, the law protecting them on account of their utility. I have seen some of the species in Demerara and Berbice as tame as fowls. When their wings are extended they measure five feet from tip to tip. The bill is orange-coloured and black ;

the caruncles on the head orange; the head and neck are bare of feathers; on the breast is a ruff of strong bristles like whalebone. The tail and long wing feathers are black, the belly white, and the body of a light colour.

A pair of parrots attracted my attention by the noise which they made in crossing from the opposite side of the savannah; they passed over my head at a great height. Turning round to look after them, I perceived old Glen, in the same costume in which I had seen him the evening before, coming out of the forest about one hundred yards further down the bank, bending his steps towards the water.

I kept myself concealed behind the trees to observe him. On arriving at the edge of the savannah, he laid down his staff, and, throwing off his only garment, he walked into the water up to his knees, and commenced washing his face and body; and then turning to the sun, which just peeped over the trees





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in all his glory, he clasped his hands in the attitude of prayer, in which he remained for a quarter of an hour, when, rising and replacing his shirt, he again hobbled up the banks and was soon lost to my sight. I stood gazing after him for some time, till the bush hid him from my view. A tear dropped from my eye, as I considered the forlorn state of this old man, which seemed to say, "What is this world to me!"

Retracing my steps, I presently had a fine view of all the buildings on this woody property, and, seating myself on the stump of an old tree, I drew the sketch from which the annexed engraving has been executed. In the foreground stood a fine cockarito, or wild cabbage, with one or two Negroes, and their wives and children to the right a little way below them. The fine feathery grass raised its head, like ostrich-plumes far above the waters of the savannah; while two egrets, beautifully white, were below fishing. The lowest building on the right hand was the

boat-house ; that above it, the dwelling-house, with an enclosed garden, filled with fruit-trees ; and on the top of the hill were the Negro huts, with some cocoa-nut trees. The whole was backed and encompassed by an evergreen forest, which perhaps cannot be surpassed, even in the West Indies.

The manicol and various species of palm, each beautiful in its kind, adorned the scene. Little birds of the brightest colours, flying from tree to tree, were displaying their splendid plumage to the sun, whilst their pendulous nests were seen hanging from the extremities of the branches ; some deep, and open at the top ; others, with an aperture in their sides ; and others, still more cautiously constructed, with the entrance at the bottom, and having a curious passage nearly to the top, where the eggs were deposited. It is strange, but true, that in this wild country the tribes of the brute creation are more at enmity with each other than in temperate climates ; and the birds are obliged to exer-

cise great ingenuity in placing their little broods out of the reach of invaders.

Walking down to the edge of the savannah, I was astonished to find the water in some parts over my head. It struck me as a singular circumstance that these waters should leave their bed and thus spread themselves over a large extent of flat country. After pondering on this subject, and making the necessary examination at the entrance and outlet to this savannah, I found the following to be the result. This whole savannah, or the ground which it now occupies, has been at one time covered with trees, which, becoming decayed, and their roots being destroyed by the increase of the water, fell an easy conquest to the winds, that eventually levelled them with the earth. The spreading of the water over this flat tract of land was occasioned by the great number of trees once flourishing on the banks of this stream, naturally decaying and falling across it, and by degrees stopping its course. Hence, instead

of being, as hitherto, the drain of the forest, it turned into a swamp a tract which it had formerly rendered dry. The sour mixture with which the ground was saturated loosened and poisoned the roots of all the trees which it reached; storm after storm overthrew them; and this accumulation tended to impede still more the current of the water, whilst the mass of bog earth went on increasing from their leaves, fruit, and small branches, until the weight of their undecayed stumps buried them far under this mass of corruption. The same process has no doubt produced the bogs of Scotland and Ireland, where the stumps of large trees have been brought to light in spots where not a tree of the same species has been seen growing in the memory of man.

The situation of this settlement is picturesque. Here its owner resides in the bosom of the lovely forests, employing his happy Negroes in cutting down and sawing up into planks the beautiful hard woods to be found

in the neighbourhood. Many of these reach the shores of Great Britain, where they compose our choicest furniture.

After this survey I returned to the dwelling-house, and Mr. Edmonstone, after breakfast, reminded us of our intended visit to old Glen. He said that, if we wished to converse with him, he recommended us to start early, as towards noon he was accustomed to recline on his hard plank and slumber for a few hours, and it was a good hour's walk to his dwelling. He added that he would send one of his Negroes to put us into the path. The colonel, turning round to me, desired that I would go first and inform the old man that he would call to see him in the afternoon; and I declined the offer of Mr. Edmonstone's servant-man, Quasi, informing him that before breakfast I had seen Glen bathing, and doubted not I should easily find his hut. Taking my gun on my shoulder, off I started, and, passing through the narrow slip of wood, where I had been in the morning, I came

upon and followed up the track which his bare feet had taken fifteen years to mark slightly on the surface.

The sun was now broiling hot, and I arrived on the edge of the forest in a violent perspiration : my shirt was wet through, for I had thrown off my flannel six months after my arrival in this country ; and I had foolishly cast it away for the very reason why I ought to have been anxious to keep it, as a free perspiration in this climate is a preservative of health. Let me advise all my young countrymen never to be without flannel in a tropical climate, as it is most conducive to health, and may ward off many of those dangerous attacks to which we are liable. A cotton shirt, too, is much more wholesome than one of linen.

Buttoning my jacket, I plunged into the forest, and proceeded at a good pace through its intricate windings. As I advanced, it grew thicker and thicker, and the footsteps of the old man became more difficult to

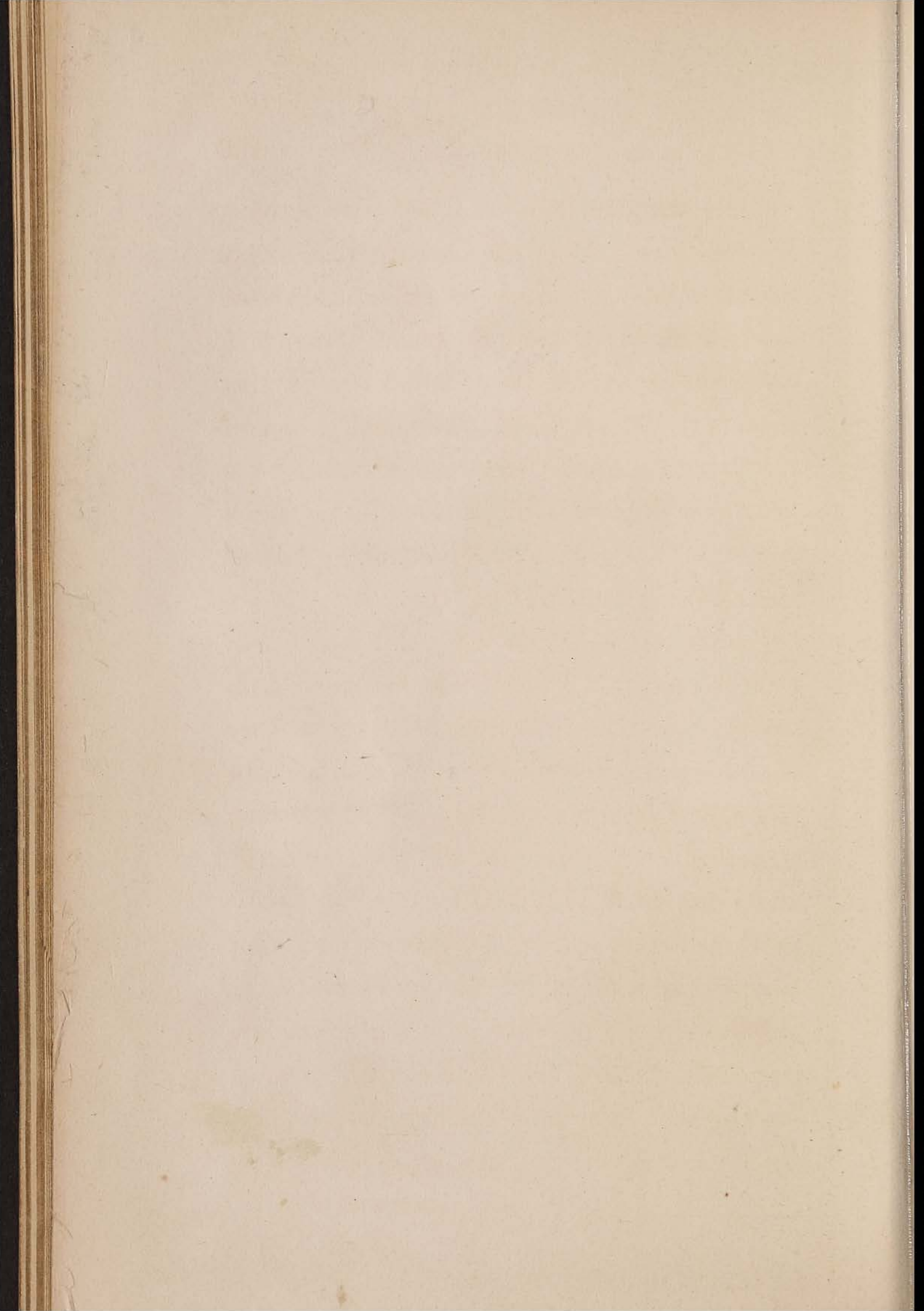
follow. At length I began to descend the hill, where I was brought to a dead stand; for I observed three or four tracks, which appeared to branch off in different directions; but whether they were of man or beast I could not possibly decide. The underwood before me was thick, and most likely harboured some of the dangerous animals or reptiles of this country, while the branches above me were so close as quite to exclude the sun and almost the light. I fortunately observed a broken branch, hanging down withered from a tree on the side of the track immediately in front of me: this was a sufficient indication, and off I started through this jungle, as it would be called in the East Indies. I floundered on in some parts with great difficulty, thorns piercing my skin and tearing my white pantaloons to pieces. At last, arriving nearly at the end of this ravine, a rustling noise on my left startled me, and I cocked my gun, expecting an animal to rush out before me. A timid deer, which perhaps had never before



seen a human being, bounded up the opposite bank, and, on gaining its top, stood, turned round, and looked back at me. It exactly resembled some of those beautiful animals I had seen in parks in Great Britain: its colour was red, spotted on the sides with white; it had no antlers; and it soon bounded off to re-join its companions, without my firing at it, owing to its distance.

The track turned to the left, and, following it for some time, I arrived at a beautiful rising ground, covered with all sorts of forest trees. About half-way up it I observed a miserable hut, which I concluded must be the one I was in search of. As I came nearer to it, I found it open on all sides, covered only by the thatch; I soon discovered the hard plank and Bible, but no Glen was to be seen; and I had time to examine his dwelling, which I supposed must have been an exact copy of the first dwelling built by the first man on this earth. Seating myself on the hard plank, I observed two or three calabashes lying on the





floor: a black earthen pot used by the Indians was on the outside, with a few smoking sticks under it, and two or three Indian necklaces hung from the beam over head. There was not another article, that I could see, in this dwelling. O that some of our youths, sick of the profusion and luxury in which they have been brought up in England, could be transported for one year to this old man's habitation in South America!

I took the Bible on my knee, and found that it naturally opened at Proverbs; and, looking, saw in the 13th chapter the following verses: verse 7th, "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing. There is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches:" and verse 11th, "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished, but he that gathereth by labour shall increase." This page had been well thumbed by the old man. Within the hut was the stillness of the wilderness. Presently I heard something approaching, and, replacing the Bible, I beheld the old man close at

hand. I rose, and, observing me, "Well, sir," said he, "I am glad to see you, and feel obliged for this visit. How fares it with that excellent man, the colonel?" I told him he was well, and desired me to say he intended that afternoon to come out to see him for a quarter of an hour, and that I left him on business with Mr. Edmonstone. "Ah!" replied he, "they are great friends. I am glad to hear he intends coming to see me; for my body is now worn out, and I have not long to live: it will give me pleasure to see his smiling countenance again, and to shake his honest hand once more. Come under shelter, young man," he continued, "the sun is powerful, and I have been a long way from home to gather these plants. I am weary with my walk, and would fain rest me." "Pray enter," said I, "and I will follow." "Sit down," he replied, pointing to his hard bed, and, stooping with great difficulty, he took up a calabash and filled it with the leaves he had in his hand. I now had a favourable

opportunity for examining this withered old man. His nose was aquiline ; his eyes gray, and sunk in his head ; his hair white and long ; his beard short and grey ; his legs, which were naked, were wasted to sticks.

He seated himself by my side, and, after inquiring my name, shook me by the hand, "Ah! you are from Scotland!" he exclaimed. I replied in the affirmative. "It is a country dear to me," he answered, "but I shall never behold it again. It is now sixty years since I left it, and all my friends must be dead and gone." He soon directed the conversation to his favourite theme, and asked me if I had ever read the works of Swedenborg. On my answering that I had not, he ejaculated, "May the Lord forgive you for your ignorance! Read them," said he, "my boy; from them alone you will learn the true path to walk in. He was a wonderful man, a man of God, sent to enlighten us poor mortals on this miserable earth. Read, read," said he, "and your eyes will be opened!"

With some trouble I changed the subject of his conversation, and, by my repeated questions, kept him from reverting to that which was uppermost in his mind. He assured me that the Indians were the most harmless and innocent race of people on the face of the earth; that they frequently came to ask his advice for sprains, bruises, and sores, all of which he cured; and that they generally returned with presents. "Here is one," said he, taking down a necklace of tigers' teeth, "which was brought to me last week by a young chieftain, a bold and successful hunter, whom I cured of a dreadful laceration of the thigh. He told me that the teeth of the jaguar which had done it were on this necklace." Putting it round my neck, the old man said, "Keep it in remembrance of me, and, when you return to Scotland, tell them, Glen gave it to you." I promised to do so; and, seeing that the sun had gained its height, I recollected the injunction of Mr. Edmonstone, and rising, said that I must leave him.

“God bless you,” said he, “young man! “I have been delighted in talking to you. My soul will soon be in the shape of one of these beautiful birds.—Read Swedenborg, and be happy!” On leaving him, I asked if he was not apprehensive of mischief from the snakes and wild beasts of these forests.—“No!” he replied, “I never harm them; they never touch me. Frequently,” he continued, “the large snakes take shelter round the beams of my hut. I never disturb them, and they never molest me. Sometimes I have seen the vampyres hanging from my roof, but my blood is dried up, and they give me no annoyance.” I left the old man in silent astonishment, wondering how a European, upwards of eighty years of age, could exist in such a situation; and, by his direction, took another path, which led me much sooner to Mr. Edmonstone’s settlement.

On approaching it, I observed two Negroes returning from the forest, one of them having on his shoulders a large animal, apparently



dead. I soon came up with them, and ascertained that it was an ant-bear, which they had just killed in the stump of an old tree. I had heard of this curious animal, but never yet had met with it; and, on examining it, I found it to be covered with very long shaggy black hair on the back and belly; its neck and sides were of a yellowish gray. The head was extremely long and slender, of a light bay colour; the eyes small; the ears short and round; the mouth without teeth, and only large enough to admit its tongue. The tail is of an enormous size; the animal when asleep covers itself with it, and at other times it trails it along the ground. The hind legs are shorter than the fore, and black, with five claws; those before of a dirty white, with four claws, the two middle ones being of enormous length. These are its only defence. This creature is chiefly found in low and swampy forests, where he goes up and down in search of ants' nests. He travels slowly, walking on the outside of his fore feet. A man

may easily overtake him ; but beware how you approach him, for Nature has given to his fore-legs wonderful strength, and, when he seizes an animal, he hugs it close to his body, and keeps it there until it dies through pressure.

Without teeth, without swiftness, and without the power of burrowing for its safety, this extraordinary quadruped ranges through these forests in perfect security, not fearing the attack of the jaguar or of the largest serpents. The Indians themselves have a dread of coming near him, after disabling him in the chase, until he is quite dead. It is, perhaps, on account of this caution that naturalists have given so few correct drawings of him.

He is a pacific animal, and never begins the attack ; but, when assaulted, he throws himself on his back, and in this attitude, laying hold of his enemy with his claws, which he now unfolds, the aggressor is sure to pay for his rashness with his life.

The havoc which he makes in the ant-hills

is astonishing; for, in a short time, he completely clears them of their inhabitants. Laying his tongue, which is nearly twenty inches in length, resembles a worm, and is covered with a slimy substance, upon the ant-hill, he waits till a number of the insects get upon and stick to it; when, drawing it into its mouth, he destroys thousands, and renews the operation until not one is left. He then marches in search of another hillock, and entraps, in the same manner, the unwary inmates; but, in case of disappointment, Nature has furnished him with the faculty of fasting without the smallest inconvenience. The flesh of this creature being good eating, it is sought after by the Indians, who generally shoot it with poisoned arrows; and its food being so different from that of other animals, it seldom comes into contact with them. This specimen measured six feet three inches from the end of the tail to the snout. A part of it was dressed for dinner, and we found it tender and good.

In the evening, Colonel Nicholson, with Mr. Edmonstone and myself, set out by the upper path for old Glen's residence. I took my gun with me, as usual. Shortly after entering the woods, we came to a spot, where the felling of some large trees had caused an opening to be left; here Mr. Edmonstone, turning round to me, said, "Look at that sloth!" I immediately cocked my gun, and was staring for him in the trees. "No, no," said he, "the beast is on the ground." I soon perceived him crawling very slowly along, apparently with great pain and trouble; and, taking aim, over he tumbled. He was not killed; and, on going up to him, I held down the muzzle of my gun to see what he would do. The animal only defended himself stoutly with his claws, uttering from time to time a low and melancholy cry. Mr. Edmonstone told me that this was the first sloth he had ever seen on the ground; and, in all probability, he had been thrown from the branch by some more powerful animal. Indeed, the

manner of his crawling clearly showed it was not formed to move upon the earth, and that the natural history which I had read of this animal was wrong in stating that it rolled itself into a ball, after consuming all the leaves on a tree, and, falling on the earth, mounted another for its food. Why should it do so in a forest, where the branches not only touched but were interlaced with each other?

The sloth has no heel; this is sufficient proof that it was not made for walking. One species has three, the other only two, very long and arched claws; with these it clings to the branches, always hanging from, and never standing upon them. Its colour exactly resembles the moss on the trees, and there can be no doubt it was formed to dwell between heaven and earth. It is always to be found hanging from the branches, asleep or in action; and in this situation it moves about with considerable activity.

This animal is called, by the Indians, heay, on account of its plaintive voice. There are

two species in Guiana ; the heay, with three toes, and the ai, with two. They are about the size of a small water spaniel, the head much resembling a monkey's, with an exceedingly wide mouth. The hinder legs are much shorter than the fore, which peculiarity assists the animal in climbing. The eyes are languid. The hair is long and bushy ; that of the first species being of a dirty grey ; whilst the ai, or second species, is of a reddish colour. Both these singular-looking, shapeless animals are often taken for excrescences on the branches of trees ; and this circumstance has frequently saved them from the natives and Negroes, who devour their flesh with avidity.

I stood so long looking at my sloth, that my friends had left me. On turning the poor animal on its back, I perceived that its resistance had nearly ceased ; in a short time its head dropped to the earth, and it expired. Taking it up by the hind leg, I followed the colonel, whom I found with Mr. Edmonstone,

seated in old Glen's hut. He was glad to see me again, and, after he had taken farewell, as if certain that he should never more behold his dear friend the colonel, we returned to the settlement.

On the 17th of April, by daylight, we were in the governor's boat and steering for the Demerara. On entering the Mibiri, we found the stream strong in our favour, and, soon reaching the Waratalla creek, and running down it, we got into the Camona creek, and afterwards to the Demerara. We now turned our head up this stream, and, as the tide was slack, our Negroes contrived to pull us well. About two in the afternoon, we landed immediately under the sand-cliff, above which was situated the plantation of Mr. Brotherston. I was the first who jumped out of the boat, and, advancing with my gun, a magnificent macaw rose on the wing before me. I fired and he fell: one of the boatmen hastened to pick him up and brought him to me.

Mr. Brotherston's house was prettily situ-







*View on the Demerara River, from the Sand Hills.*

ated, not far from these cliffs. Next morning, the 18th of April, as he recommended me to walk higher up over the sand-hills, where I should have an extensive view, I rose early, and started, as usual, with my gun and sketch-book, taking with me my black friend, Dick, one of our boatmen. After a long and rather fatiguing walk over loose sand, we at length reached a most singular tree, its seeds, in brown pods, being suspended from its boughs by fibres resembling threads, three, and some of them four, feet in length.

The view from this spot was extensive, looking down the Demerara, and, like all the other scenes in this country, wood and water composed the whole of the scenery. I desired Dick to knock me down one of the curious pods from the tree just mentioned, and I found it to resemble, in appearance, the locust-bean, which grows in Spain, but in taste not near so good as the Spanish production.

Next morning, the 19th, whilst at breakfast, the Negro in charge of the poultry came

with a complaint that the quacy-quacy had destroyed six of his master's fowls, and that he had traced him to the woods, where he was in a tree, and he wished to know if "massa," turning to me, would like to hunt him. I immediately assented and accompanied him. We had not proceeded far into the wood when he pointed out a large tree, and, showing me a hole in its stump, hollow with decay, he said, "Him dare, massa," and putting down his ear close to the hole, he rose, exclaiming, "Him dare for sartin!" "Well," said I, "how are we to get him out?" "Oh! me soon do dat, massa," exclaimed the happy Negro; and posting me at the hole to keep watch, he began picking up dry grass and pieces of stick. These he placed at the hole, and, pulling out his flint, knife, and a piece of dried moss, soon set them in a blaze. Seizing a stick, he then placed himself by the side of the tree, ready to strike, and told me to fire if he missed. "Him dam rogue, massa," meaning by this intimation

to keep me on the alert: for the quacy-quacy is extremely cunning. Presently out dashed one, which the Negro struck on the head and killed. He was followed by a second, which, not expecting it, he missed. "Massa, shoot him! Massa, kill him!" he exclaimed. Close to us stood a fine upright tree, behind which the cunning creature darted, with one leap, and then began running up the trunk with wonderful celerity. I made a spring round the other side, and saw him half-way up to the branches, fired, and, having brought him down, the Negro gave him a settler with his stick.

The quacy-quacy, or coatimondi, is as strong as a fox, all the cunning of which it possesses; and has been frequently known to carry off a turkey. It measures two feet from the tip of the tail to the end of the nose. The body, of a dark brown colour, is shaped like that of a dog. The tail is long, hairy, and annulated, having black rings upon a deep buff; the breast and belly are of a dirty white.

The jaws are very long, of a light brown colour; the snout black, and projecting upwards. The legs are short, particularly the foremost; the feet long; and, like the bear, it frequently stands erect upon its hind legs, walking always on its heels. No quadrupeds are better climbers; and every smaller animal or bird is its prey. These creatures, like our European foxes, make dreadful havoc among the poultry of the planters, who, with all their contrivance, cannot destroy them. The two robbers, whom we took home with us, we nailed against the paling of the hen-house, as a warning to their fellow-depredators.

I will close my notes on those lovely scenes of nature, which delighted me in this excursion, and the contemplation of which expanded my mind and heart, with a beautiful observation of Sir Humphrey Davy's:—

“ If we look with wonder upon the great remains of human grandeur, such as the columns of Palmyra, broken in the midst of the Desert, the Temples of Pæstum, beautiful in the de-

cay of twenty centuries, or the mutilated fragments of Greek sculpture, in the Acropolis of Athens, or in our own Museum, as proofs of the genius of artists, and the power and riches of nations now passed away; with how much deeper feelings of admiration must we consider those grand monuments of Nature which mark the revolutions of the globe; continents broken into islands; one land produced, another destroyed; the bottom of the ocean become fertile soil; whole races of animals extinct, and the bones and exuviae of one class covered with the remains of another; and, upon the graves of past generations, the marble, a rocky tomb, as it were, of a former animated world; new generations rising, and order and harmony established, and a system of life and beauty produced, as it were, out of chaos and death, proving the infinite wisdom, power, and goodness, of the Great Cause of all beings!"

## CHAPTER XI.

Departure from Mr. Brotherston's—Fredestein—Return to Demerara—The Author ordered Home—Visit to Fredestein—Anniversary of the Owner's Marriage—Procession of Negro Slaves—Dinner and Ball—The Drying-lodge fitted for a Bed-chamber—Draught of Air and its Effects—Dangerous Illness of the Author—Benefit of Cold Affusion—Departure from Demerara in the Fanny—Mr. La Maison—Gold-dust—Guadaloupe—St. Kitts—Excursion to Brimstone Hill—Captain William St. Clair—Convoy of Merchantmen—Arrival in England—Visit to the Duke of Kent—Journey to Edinburgh.

NEXT morning, the 19th of April, bidding Mr. Brotherston farewell, we embarked, and, standing down the river, arrived at Fredestein plantation at three o'clock in the afternoon. Here we were expected, and most kindly received by the same party whose acquaintance we made on our ascent; and the colonel informed the old Dutch frau that he could only spend the morrow with her, as he had

business of importance to transact in Stabroek. We accordingly passed the remainder of this day and the whole of the next at Fredestein, and, before our departure on the 21st, the good old lady requested that the governor, with myself and any friends whom he chose to bring with him, would honour her by his presence at a dance, which they give every 9th of May, being the anniversary of their marriage, to which the colonel signified his acceptance of her kind invitation, and assured her that he should have great pleasure in joining the merry party on such an occasion.

Standing down the river for Stabroek, we arrived in less than half the time we had taken in coming up. On reaching Government-house, a large packet of letters, which had arrived during our absence, from England, was lying on his Excellency's table. On opening the first of these, from his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, upon regimental business, he turned to me, saying that I was ordered home to join the 4th battalion. It is



needless to declare that I felt regret at this intimation, though I had been broiled for two years and four months in this climate; but I did feel, and most poignantly, the necessity of parting from such a man as Colonel Nicholson.

Day passed after day, there being no vessel in the river to sail for England before June. The 8th of May at length arrived, and the colonel, having arranged his party of three young officers with myself, we started and arrived at three in the afternoon, taking with us some of the musicians of the band, who, on coming within sight of the plantation-house, struck up a tune. It operated like magic on the household: every window, looking towards the water, was in a moment filled with females, and in as short a time as possible we were amongst them. We found a large assemblage of fraus and frauleins from different plantations, both up and down the river, and I never beheld a more happy party. After dinner we had a little dancing

to prepare our legs for the next evening, and retired early to our hammocks, which were hung in the dining-room, all the apartments upstairs being occupied by the ladies.

The next morning a scene of affection took place which delighted me much. We had risen early, in order to have the dining-room cleared, and walked out on the plantation. Here we found all the Negroes, about eight hundred in number, marshalling themselves two and two, the women dressed in new white petticoats, with a bright-coloured border, their hair adorned with flowers; the men all sleek and trim like well-fed bucks. Joyful smiles were on their countenances, and contentment and happiness appeared to be their companions. We, as happy as any of them, were enjoying the scene before us, when we heard Colonel Nicholson calling to us, and were obliged to leave it. On returning to the house, we found the whole party collected in the passage. "Come," said he, "young gentlemen; take your partners: here is a

ceremony to go through." I do not know if it was the effect of chance or intention on my part, but the hand of the pretty little widow fell into mine. Be it as it may, we followed in the train, each taking a sweet little nose-gay of orange flowers, presented to us by two Negro girls as we entered the room, at the end of which was seated the lady of the house, dressed in white, with orange-flowers in her hair, her two daughters standing like bride-maids one on each side of her.

Her husband was the first who stepped forward, and kissing her hand presented his bouquet: each pair in the room did the same in succession, wishing her many returns of the day. We had scarcely finished before the tom-toms or drums of the Negroes were heard, and presently they appeared coming round the front of the house. First advanced four stout young musicians, two beating tom-toms and two playing on other outlandish instruments; then followed all the young children, two and two, lifting their legs in an attempt

at a dance; then young boys and girls, all absolutely naked, giggling and twisting about; then young men and women, followed by their fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, and their great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers. Another band composed of five young men, all dancing and screaming with delight, brought up the rear. The first band of music, followed by the little children, were by this time entering at one door of the room, through which they all passed, throwing down at the feet of their mistress orange flowers, and wishing her health and happiness, and retiring by another door until the whole population of the estate had passed her.

Nothing could be more delightful than to see so much affection shown by these ignorant people; for it afforded the strongest proof of their good treatment upon this property; and I begged the governor to have an account of the whole scene published in the *Stabroek* paper, by way of shaming a few hard-hearted

Europeans, who were still to be found in the colony.

No work was done on this day, and nothing was heard but the tom-toms. We dined early, and, at seven o'clock, our band being placed, we commenced dancing. The windows were thrown open, and the Negroes, attracted by the softer sounds of our music, commenced their extraordinary dances under them. Within and without all was happiness, and at twelve o'clock we retired to an excellent supper, where our old host made himself as drunk as a king. Late in the morning, the gentlemen left the house to sleep in the drying lodge, which had been cleared for the purpose of making room for the hammocks, all exceedingly hot with dancing and good liquor. None of us could sleep for the heat; and it was soon voted that a folding door at one end should be thrown open. Still there was not air enough, and the opposite door also was opened; when a refreshing draught passed through the building, and we sank

into a sound slumber. But, what was the consequence of this air upon some of our heated frames!—Lieutenant Myers, a young Dutchman, and myself, awoke the next morning in burning fevers; my head was ready to split, and I was unable to move. Colonel Nicholson, who had not slept in the drying-house, came to us; and, having ordered the lieutenant and me to be carried to his boat, we were landed at Fort William Frederick, and put into our own beds. The doctor of the regiment, M' Gill, soon attended me. I saw him shake his head on feeling my pulse; my tongue was now cleaving to the roof of my mouth, and my body was of the colour of raw beef. His attention to me was great; we had always been sincere friends, and he now showed it. Dr. Duncan and Dr. Bennet of the artillery both came to see me. The fever became so violent as to deprive me of my senses. I knew nobody, and cared not what became of me. M' Gill watched me, as though I had been his own child; and, on the

third morning, seated by my side, and, feeling my pulse, he ordered my servant to bring two buckets of cold water ; and, laying me on the floor naked, he emptied one over my head and shoulders, and the other over my body. As soon as the first severe shock was over, I felt myself in heaven. “ Oh !” said I, “ do give me another !” This done, I was laid in bed, carefully covered and tucked up, and soon fell into a refreshing sleep. A few hours afterwards, my medical friend returned, and inquired how I felt. I replied that I was wet with perspiration. “ I congratulate you,” said he, “ your life is saved.” In a fortnight I was able to crawl from my bed ; but, such was the effect of this attack upon me, that I did not recover strength enough to leave my room for five weeks, when I began making preparations for my voyage.

After taking leave of my kind and fatherly friend, Colonel Nicholson, and receiving all his orders to be executed in England, I embarked, little imagining that I was never to

see him again. He died of a fever, three years afterwards, as governor of the island of Antigua, most sincerely lamented by all who knew him.

On the 9th of June, 1808, Mr. Macrae, to whom the vessel in which I had taken my passage had been consigned, lay-to for me in his schooner, with the other passengers, off Fort William Frederick. The vessel had the day before dropped down the river, and was lying at anchor beyond the bar, waiting for us.

I found on board the old Dutch governor, Meertens, Messrs. Johnstone, Van der Heural, and young Meertens. It was seven in the morning when we cleared the mouth of the river, and at ten we stepped on board the *Fanny*, of London. Here I found already embarked Messrs. La Maison, Evelyn, de Brouské, and Soulevin, with a Dutch widow, between twenty-five and thirty years of age, and my old friend and companion, to whom I had been just indebted for my life, Mr. M' Gill.



Next morning, his Majesty's brig, Julian, commanded by Captain Parker, appearing in sight, with a small fleet of merchantmen under convoy, we soon got under weigh, and were in all twenty-three sail.

We stood out to sea, and soon lost sight of the distant trees of South America, at which I took a last peep from the mast-head. The weather was warm, and the sea exceedingly smooth. We bore off nearly before the wind, keeping our heads for the West India Islands. On Tuesday, June 13th, a heavy squall passed over us, in latitude  $11^{\circ} 29'$ ; and we lost a goat, which went overboard. Flying fish began to make their appearance. The water was again clear as crystal. During these few days I formed an acquaintance with Mr. La Maison, and, shewing him the sketches I had made in Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo, he expressed the greatest desire to possess them, informing me that he intended publishing a history of those colonies, and that my drawings would render it a complete

and valuable book ; but I intimated that, as they were done for the amusement of my parents, I could not part with them.

June 18th, being by observation in latitude  $14^{\circ} 44'$ , the weather was still calm and hot. A Genoese passenger, in the steerage, lately from Africa, showed me a quantity of gold-dust, which he had sewed up in a broad belt, that he constantly wore about his waist. He informed me that he had himself procured it in Mexico, and intended to return from England to his own country, to live in comfort with his friends.

On the 19th we came in sight of Guadeloupe, and the small island near it called the Saints, bearing N. E. distant twenty miles. As we neared this island, our convoy kept between it and us, lest any French privateers should come out to attack us. At 5 P. M. we observed close under its lee the Jason frigate, with twelve sail of merchantmen, bearing down upon us. The hills of this island appeared so beautiful, rising from the ocean,

that I was tempted to make a sketch of it. Montserrat was in sight from our deck.

Next morning, June 20th, close under the lee of Nevis, we were joined by the Barbadoes and Antigua vessels, and at 11 A. M. came to in Bostar Roads. At three in the afternoon I landed in the small town of St. Kitt's, and hired a broken-down hack with the intention of riding a distance of twelve miles, to Brimstone Hill, on which my brother William was quartered with the 25th regiment; this corps having been sent thither from Gibraltar. The town is situated close to the bay. Mounting my horse, I was obliged to pay down a guinea for the use of him before starting, with directions from the owner, an innkeeper, to pay a Negro, who was to accompany me, according to his attentions. Off we went, Blacky on foot trotting before me; and so exceedingly bad was the road that I found it difficult to keep up with him.

I often looked back upon Bostar Roads, where the whole fleet were now lying at an-

chor. At length we came within sight of Brimstone Hill, which appeared to me a table mountain standing by itself, and I plainly distinguished the barracks on its top, which had all the appearance of our temporary ones in England. Its face, on this side, consisted of perpendicular precipices of rock, and I was obliged to ride round to the other side to find the road leading up to it. I reached its top just as the drums were beating half an hour to dinner, and, finding out the quarters of my brother, we were soon in each other's arms. I met at the mess-table the commanding officer, Colonel Stewart, Major Farquharson, Captains M'Donald, Hawtrey, Gibbons, and all the officers of the 25th Regiment.

On the following morning I turned out early to see them under arms, and found them a fine steady corps, composed of good-looking young men. After parade, standing on the summit of this hill, admiring the beauties of the land scenery, I turned round to the water, and beheld the whole fleet under

weigh, standing before the wind. I was horror-struck at losing my passage, and my brother William, now running to another point, looking immediately below the hill, consoled me by saying there was a vessel taking in a cargo in the bay below, which I might yet get on board of: and, ordering a couple of horses, we started immediately. Arriving at the edge of the water, we shook hands for the last time. Little did I then think how soon we were to be parted for ever, or that he was to find his grave in the island of Martinique, not long after I left him. His regiment was one of those that composed the expedition ordered against that island; in the attack of which, he, poor fellow, being senior captain of his regiment and in command of the light company, was shot through the head and instantly expired. I was in Scotland when this melancholy news arrived, and such was its effect on my mother that I had fears for her life.

I left St. Kitt's on board the *Themis*, mer-

chant-ship, Captain Barron. On the 25th of June, we came within sight of the round rocks near Tortola; standing through them, we found the last ships of the fleet just coming to anchor, and I was put on board the Fanny. In the evening Mr. La Maison, with myself and my friend M'Gill, determined upon sleeping on shore. The next morning I found this island a bare and miserable spot, with a small and ugly town, the houses built of wood, every article of life exceedingly expensive; and we were charged this day three dollars a head for a miserable dinner. The evening we passed in the house of a friend of Mr. La Maison's, and met two tawny or coloured young ladies, by name Paternellos, with whom we had a good deal of amusement.

On the morning of the 27th the blue peter was flying from all the men-of-war, and a gun to get under weigh, recalled us on board.

We found that three of his Majesty's ships of war were to accompany us, having under their convoy nearly two hundred sail of mer-

chantmen, laden with the rich produce of the West. We soon cleared the land, and, after passing St. Thomas's in the evening, with fine weather, we once more dashed on for Old England.

On the 9th of August, 1808, I landed safely on this happy island, and immediately waited on his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who was then at his residence, Castle-bear, Ealing. On sending up my name, his Royal Highness immediately ordered me to be shown up stairs, where he received me with the most flattering attention, and never in my life was I so struck with the affability, kindness of manner, and handsome person of any man, as with those qualities in his Royal Highness. "Come," said he, "Captain St. Clair, breakfast is ready." When seated at table, he put various questions to me concerning the 1st battalion of his regiment, and ended by asking me if I intended to request leave to go and see my father and mother. I answered that I should wish to do so, if his Royal

Highness could spare me for a short time. "I will see," he replied, and desired me to leave my address. Next morning, whilst at breakfast, I received an order from his Royal Highness to proceed to Edinburgh, where I was to take charge of a recruiting party. I hastened to thank him for his kindness, and having taken my place in the mail the same evening, on the fourth day afterwards I once more embraced my beloved parents, whom I found spending the summer in Rosslyn Castle.



## CHAPTER XII.

Expedition to Martinique—Shipping a Sea—Rendezvous at Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes—Landing of the Troops in Martinique—Difficulty of bringing up the Guns—Tropical Rain—Mountain Scenery—Running Fight—Uncomfortable Bivouac—Fatal Shot—Meeting with Captain W. St. Clair—Wounded Officers—Death of Captain St. Clair—His Burial by his Brother—Erection of Batteries—Bombardment—Surrender of the Island—Particulars of Captain St. Clair, Biographical and Professional.

At the period of the attack of Martinique, to which I have adverted in the last chapter, my elder brother, Lieutenant-Colonel James P. St. Clair, Royal Artillery, was a major under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, and almost saw his brother William fall, being at the moment immediately in his rear, with a brigade of guns. Some years afterwards he gave me the following recollections of this expedition; and I trust that I need not apologize to the reader for occupying with it a few pages of this work.

Early in December, 1808, the 7th, 8th, and 23d Regiments, with two companies of artillery and drivers, embarked at Halifax, Nova Scotia, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, for the purpose of joining an army in the West Indies, intended for the reduction of the French island of Martinique.

The previous summer had been passed in field-exercise and sham fights, for the formation of our young Fusileers; and these splendid regiments, which subsequently reaped such honours on the continent of Europe, under their gallant commanders, Sir Edward Pakenham and Sir H. W. Ellis, with, at this time, the more veteran and powerful 8th Regiment, constituted a brigade, which any commander might have been proud to lead.

The cold hand of winter was now heavy on North America, and, as we sailed from the harbour of Halifax, a rough north-wester sent us reeling onwards, followed by a sea which few could stomach. At night the gale in-

creased ; and our obstinate skipper refusing to put in the dead lights, just as day dawned, we were pooped with a tremendous sea, which stove in our starboard window, setting us all afloat. My birth was the sternmost, close to this window ; and, awakened by the shock, I found myself so completely under water, that it became dubious in my mind whether I was fish or flesh ; but, a choaking sensation proving the watery element to be uncongenial to my lungs, I started bolt upright, shook my dripping nightcap, and, looking around to solve the dubious question, beneath me I observed a scene, ridiculous enough to make even old Neptune laugh.

The waters rolled to and fro upon the cabin floor, filling alternately larboard and starboard lower births ; and, as each heave of the labouring ship dashed it from side to side, their astonished inmates were seen thrusting forth a leg or an arm to stay the ruthless element, that next moment again overwhelmed them ; while those on the opposite side had

scarcely breathing time before receiving the shock again ; emerging thus in turn from their unwelcome bath, till the hurly-burly of screams and laughter brought assistance to let the water forward.

Without further incident, except the melancholy conviction that one of our men-of-war schooners must have foundered during this gale, we reached the rendezvous, at Carlisle Bay, Barbadoes, at the end of the year. Here we lay a long and lingering month, which was spent on board our transport, in all the *ennui* of inaction, harbouring the disheartening thoughts of an anticipated disappointment, as neither ships nor troops appeared to join us ; and it was late in January, 1809, before the joyful notes of preparation sounded to raise our drooping spirits. Some men of our corps had already fallen victims to the climate, and the Royal Artillery lost an amiable young officer, in Captain Kenneth Steuart.

On the 28th of January, a gallant fleet and

army, under the orders of Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane and Lieutenant-General Sir George Beckwith, sailed to leeward; and in the night Sir George Prevost's brigade parted company, steering for the back of the Isle of Martinique, the main armament bearing down for Port Royal.

Day-light led this northern band into the harbour called Cul de Sac Robert, and the narrator, being attached to the northern army, purposes to relate only the leading features of his operations, with a few incidents which he witnessed.

The advance, under Brigadier General Houghton, was now pulled to shore, and a small party of the enemy retiring as they approached, enabled them to land without opposition; nor did they attempt the smallest resistance to the disembarkation of the rest of our troops, which was effected in the course of the day.

A forward movement was immediately ordered; but, the artillery being without horses,

the light field-pieces attached were obliged to be pulled by its own men, and, as the road was exceedingly hilly and difficult, five miles only were gained.

As night set in, black gathering clouds threatened an approaching storm; and soon the rush of waters, beating impetuously on the mountain foliage, gave our astonished Johnny Newcomes a specimen of a tropical shower, which, as Lawrie Todd describes it, "is unlike your calm, considerate, European showers. It was an outpouring of the surcharged clouds, that threatened a second deluge, and, penetrating at once cloak, and coat, and all, to the very skin, nay more, through the skin itself, chilled to the marrow of one's bones."

The bivouac instantly became a scene of desolation and dismal solitude. Jokes, laughter, and fires, at once extinguished, the dripping crowd sought shelter where they could; and, stretching myself in my hammock, which was hung between two gun-wheels, with

sponge-staves for a ridge-pole, over which was thrown a tarpaulin cover, I laid me down, blessing Him who gave me sleep, which, like a comfortable blanket, soon covered me all over, though in this case it was a wet one.

Early dawn found all again on foot, bending their eager way towards Mount Bruno, which was now within sight ; and it was pleasing, as height after height was gained, to gaze around us on the diversified scenery of this splendid island. Now and then a magnificent dark and deep ravine opened to our view, clothed with foliage to its bottom, which sent forth the most delicious perfume from the variety of plants ; through which a mountain torrent, hurrying its noisy waters to the sea, was seen foaming in its course. Then, lifting our astonished eyes to the vast mountain itself, we were lost in amazement as it towered above us to the clouds. Tracing our steps through the richly cultivated plains beneath, the march of our following comrades was plainly visible by the rising steam of their

wet jackets, now drying in the fierce sunbeams.

But no long time was given us for such peaceful enjoyments: for the musketry of our advanced skirmishers now told us of a discovered enemy; and eye and ear were stretched anxiously forward. Soon the more frequent sound of dropping shot, or platoon firing, bespoke a nearer contact; and our unfortunate wounded countrymen, stretched by the road side, appealed to their old comrades to hasten on, and maddened my tugging gunners to the utmost. Regiment after regiment now passed me, hurrying on to the front. Then, indeed, came on the tug of war: up hill and down hill, through mud and through water, did my poor fellows haul the weighty pieces of artillery after them; and, oft-times, these poor eager soldiers, anxious for a share in the fight, pulled on all-fours for hours under a burning sun, only to encounter disappointment; for no sooner was one height gained than another presented itself, behind



which the enemy had disappeared ; and we reached not the advance again until late at night, completely exhausted. It was a running fight for miles, with little loss on either side, and terminated in driving the enemy into his entrenchments on the heights of Souriry, and our taking up a position on Mount Bruno, immediately in their front.

Again the rain began to fall in torrents, and here upon the saturated earth as our resting-place, and canopied by the dark expanse of clouds, I question if tired nature found more balmy sleep, even on a bed of down, than our little wearied army after this day's chace.

Wrapped in my cloak, with head pillowed on my saddle (for I had been in hopes of meeting with a horse) all consciousness of place and circumstance was soon lost in oblivion, and I slept without the disturbance of even a dream ; still methought I heard a voice cry, "St. Clair ! St. Clair ! Houghton has murdered sleep !" It was, indeed, my worthy

general, who, resting on the off-side of my saddle, awoke me with this remark: "Dry lodgings for man and beast." Before daylight we were shaking the wet from our dripping clothes; and, as the welcome sun burst forth, dispersing the vapours of last night's rain, no enemy appearing beyond their trenches, we prepared our breakfast; and, while seated with Brigadier General Houghton, a cannon-shot, sent from the opposite redoubt, passed directly over our heads, and, striking the right of the 8th Regiment, seated under a hedge close by, at one fell blow killed three of their non-commissioned officers. The death-shriek, which issued from these mangled unfortunates, would have palsied a stronger appetite than ours. So, gathering up the fragments, I prepared to return the compliment, by ordering my guns into position.

The enemy, I saw, were strongly fortified on a ridge of hills in our front, within a breast-work, resting on two field-works on the hill

of Souriry. The right battery crowned the height at its precipitous descent into a ravine ; and the whole commanded an irregular broken vale of unequal ground and cane-pieces, situated between it and us.

While this was doing, I took the opportunity of running down to a stream of clear water, which was between us and a country-house, the property of a planter, occupied by Sir George Prevost, under and in rear of the hill we were on ; and was employed in washing my face and hands in this clear water, flowing through the bottom, when my brother, Captain William St. Clair, at the head of the Grenadiers and Light Company, 25th Regiment, passed me, hurrying on to the front. They had been ordered round to join a Light Corps from the West India army which was with us, under Major Campbell, York Light Infantry.

This was the first meeting of myself and my dear brother for many years, and fate had doomed it to be the last. After short greet-

ings and inquiries, he passed forward with this prophetic observation : “ I die to-day or gain promotion.” The poor fellow was senior captain in the field, and for some years past had been engaged to a young lady of noble family in Ireland, whose hand he would obtain on getting his majority.

I had just regained my guns, when the distant sound of musketry announced that a reconnoissance had taken place, which the ardour of our troops soon converted into a real attack, and the quick transit of wounded to the rear showed it to be boldly sustained. Brigade-Major Taylor, of the 7th Fusileers, was the first who fell ; Major Maxwell of the 8th passed me mortally wounded ; and my old friend Colonel Pakenham soon after came up the hill I was on, shot through the neck. He remembered my being present six years before, when he received a similar wound at the capture of St. Lucia, and gaily remarked in passing, “ They can't break it, you see, St. Clair ; that job is reserved for the hangman.”

This excellent and dashing officer reached a more exalted station in the Peninsula, during the Duke of Wellington's campaigns; and, after the cessation of hostilities with France, embarked in 1814 from Bordeaux for America, where he met his fate at New Orleans, as Major-General the Honourable Sir Edward Pakenham, K. B. Commander of the Forces.

The light corps, in which was my brother's company, after a hard skirmish, were now crouching beneath the irregular ground in front of the right redoubt, covered from its destructive fire, which had made sad havoc amongst them in their attempt to turn its flank; at which time Major Campbell, receiving a ball through his elbow, retired from the field, leaving him in command. He, now observing an impatient movement amongst his men, rose to order them to keep quiet under so severe a fire. In an instant, his brilliant border uniform attracted the enemy's attention; a dozen muskets were instantly levelled, and the doomed St. Clair fell to rise no more.

At length, baffled at all points, the troops reluctantly withdrew, and, during the night, I obtained permission from Sir George Prevost, under a flag of truce, to bury my unfortunate brother early in the morning. Taking four of my artillerymen with me at daybreak, I proceeded to search for his body, which I found, after some trouble, on the spot where he fell, amidst a heap of mutilated and half-naked slain, stiffened in the position he had fallen. His death was occasioned by a single ball passing through his brain. Not a muscle was altered, and he seemed to be in sleep, with happiness depicted on his countenance. I never beheld a finer or more noble figure in his arms and accoutrements, still expressive of his living soul.

An acacia tree was close by, marked with the bullets from the enemy, under which I directed his grave to be made; and, wrapping his body in my hammock, I committed his honoured remains to their mother earth—an afflicted brother's tears, and honest praises

from my companions, who had witnessed his gallant daring on the previous day, being all the requiem over a soldier's grave. His sword I took with me as a *memento mori*.

As soon as this melancholy ceremony was ended, the silence and solitude of the enemy's works struck my attention, and I approached with my flag to discover the cause, when I found them abandoned; and, on this report being made, our troops advanced and took possession, the enemy having retired to the forts below, dreading a repetition of so determined an attack as that of the day before.

Batteries were now erected on these heights; and the West India army, having gained Port Royal, and invested Fort Bourbon on the bay side, by the 19th of February, 1809, all was ready for the bombardment. Three o'clock in the afternoon was the hour fixed on for commencing, by signal, from my battery. Sir George Prevost had kindly sent me refreshments for myself and officers; and, arranging these viands on a board between two

guns, we fell to with a tolerable appetite, when a shot from Boulia redoubt passed through the angle of our parapet, and carried off the cap from the head of a tall artilleryman in waiting on us. "O Jusus!" cried Pat, "where's my head?" This, however, did not prevent us from continuing.

At length three o'clock arrived; the signal gun was fired by me, and I saw the ball speeding its whizzing course across the plain below us, skimming beautifully close over the parapet-slope into the fort. This was in return for the one they had so unexpectedly sent to us, as I wished to repay them for the death of my brother, which weighed heavy at my heart; and, though I say it, never was better range: and now the noise and smoke of guns and mortars, from right to left and rear, thundered on our ears; and the loud cheers from the sailors' battery were echoed from hill to hill, whilst these reckless fellows, standing on their parapet, waved their glazed hats in defiance. At night the flight of shells



to one common centre, visible as they whirled through the air from their burning fuses, was a most beautiful sight.

A few such days and nights, during which the fire was so incessant from our batteries that scarcely a man of the enemy could venture from their bomb-proofs to return a shot, induced them to display a white flag, and the garrison capitulated: 2,700 soldiers, and the crew of a frigate and smaller vessels of war, that had been thrown into these forts, now marched out, and grounded their arms as prisoners; and the British flag occupied the place of the tricolour.

This service being ended, Sir George Prevost returned, with his troops, to Halifax, where I was shortly afterwards appointed on the staff.

So far my brother James. I shall complete his history by giving the dates of my brother William's commissions, and a short account of his brief career.

He was the fifth child of my father, Colonel

William St. Clair, 25th Regiment, and, at the early age of twelve years, received his commission, as ensign, dated in 1792, from the late Lord George Lennox.

In 1794 he was appointed lieutenant in the same corps; and, in 1799, the 25th Regiment was called on service, under his late Royal Highness the Duke of York, and my brother William embarked with it, and served during these campaigns.

Some of the captains of his regiment being killed in action, Lieutenant St. Clair was recommended for a vacant company; but his Royal Highness, owing to his extremely youthful appearance, he being at this time only nineteen years of age, demurred to appointing him. In consequence, all the officers of his regiment signed a memorial, begging his Royal Highness would take into consideration the claim of Lieutenant St. Clair, being the son of their old commanding officer, Colonel St. Clair, who had served thirty-four years in the regiment, beloved by every individual

in it; and they dared to hope another officer would not be placed over his head. A few days afterwards my brother received his captain's commission.

The 25th Regiment, now returning home, were quartered for some time in Ireland, and from thence went to Gibraltar; here they were unfortunately induced to take a leading part in that disgraceful mutiny against my colonel, his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, then governor of this garrison. My brother, with the whole of the officers of his regiment, succeeded, at last, in quelling it; and the regiment was sent out to the West Indies immediately afterwards.

In January, 1809, the flank companies of the 25th, or Royal Borderers, under the command of Captain St. Clair, were ordered from St. Kitt's, to join the West India army in an attack on Martinique, where he fell, at the age of twenty-nine years, dying in the same regiment in which he was born.

Sir George Prevost, in his report, dated

2d February, 1809, says: "The bravery of the Light Battalion enabled me to carry the valuable position of Souriry, within three hundred yards of the enemies' entrenched camp;" and in a dispatch, dated Headquarters, Martinique, 15th February, 1809, Lieutenant-General Sir George Beckwith thus expresses himself: "In my general report of the action, time did not allow of my expressing my regrets at the loss of Captain St. Clair, (which, in the original, is mis-spelt Sinclair) of the 25th Light Infantry, a very gallant young officer, who fell leading on his men to the attack, on the heights of Souriry."

### CHAPTER XIII.

Military Longings—Kind Consideration of the Duke of Kent—Dalkeith House—Secret Expedition—Letter from the Duke of Kent—Case of Serjeant Fraser—Letter of the Duke of Kent on the Subject—Departure from Edinburgh—Journey to London outside the Mail—Visit to the Duke of Kent—The Author joins his Regiment at Chelmsford—Troops inspected by the Duke of Kent—March to Portsmouth—General Orders—General Graham—Embarkation—The Revenge—Frolic of the Midshipmen.

IN the beginning of 1809 I was still on the recruiting service in Scotland, after my arrival from the West Indies, living at my father's house, and enjoying the charming society to be met with in the gay and agreeable Scottish metropolis.

I had not yet heard a shot fired in earnest, and, though strutting about in my gay harness, could hardly consider myself a soldier. The newspapers were now teeming with dispatches

from Sir Arthur Wellesley, and his little army were gathering laurels by armfuls in Portugal. How I longed to be with them! War was stalking with giant strides over Europe; yet, being only an effective captain in the 4th Battalion Royal Scots, I did not see the smallest chance of being employed on active service whilst belonging to it.

In short, nothing could equal my anxiety to run my head into fire, and, seizing my pen, I wrote a letter to the Duke of Kent, in which, presuming that the 3d Battalion might be employed on continental service before the 4th Battalion, I begged his Royal Highness, for the friendship he bore my father, to remove me to the 3d. I received the kindest answer, full of praises for my anxiety for active service, and assuring me of his wish to oblige me as soon as an opportunity offered.

The kind feelings of his Royal Highness to me were visible on many occasions whilst I was employed in recruiting. I had several parties

of the Royal Regiment under my command in Scotland; and the instructions I received were to transmit monthly reports of the character of those recruits who had wives, and to subjoin as much as I knew concerning their behaviour, in order that he might extend his kindness to such as were deserving. The consequence was, that when married recruits were ordered to join the 3d Battalion, then in England, his Royal Highness invariably sent me orders to procure a passage for their wives and families in the Berwick smacks to London, that they might more easily meet their husbands at the head-quarters than at Chelmsford in Essex.

This proof of care and generosity had a wonderful effect on the Scotch peasantry, many of whom, fine, stout, young men, were induced to enlist solely from this cause; and, on the volunteering of the militia regiments into the line, I procured nearly two hundred good soldiers from the Dalkeith Regiment, who willingly entered the Royal Scots; a cir-

cumstance which so displeased the old Duke of Buccleugh, grandfather of the present possessor of the title, that he almost closed the gates of Dalkeith-house against me, but, on consideration, invited me to dinner and gave me a bed.

Lady Dalkeith, wife of the duke's eldest son, was then a charming young woman, in the flower of beauty, and there could not be greater attention than was paid to me by the whole family. The author of *Waverley* resided in the neighbourhood: I had the satisfaction of meeting him at table, when I reminded him of having heard him read his first poem, "The Lay of the Last Minstrel," to Lady Rosslyn, some years before, previously to its publication.

A secret expedition now equipping was the general topic of conversation. Troops were brushing up in all parts of the country, and the 3d Battalion of the Royal Scots was ordered to prepare to join it. I cannot express my satisfaction on receiving the following



letter from his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent :

“ Kensington Palace,  
“ 25th May, 1806.

“ DEAR ST. CLAIR,

“ I have had the pleasure of receiving, this day, your letter of the 19th, from which I have received the fullest information I could possibly wish respecting the several recruiting parties under your superintendence, and shall be able in consequence now to complete my arrangements without further difficulty.

“ With respect to yourself, I with pleasure apprise you that, owing to the rapid promotion that has taken place among our captains, you are now become effective in the 3d Battalion ; and have, therefore, for the time, lost the light company again, as, upon Captain Hay, whose company you succeeded to in the 4th Battalion, becoming effective in the 3d, he succeeded to Captain Anderson’s light company, that officer becoming at the time effective in the 2d Battalion : but you are of course the first candidate for it in the event of its becoming vacant. However, it is highly gratifying to me to find that your inclination prompts you to join, as they are this day completed to 1000 effective rank and file, preparatory to immediate embarkation for continental service ; so that I am sure you will not lose a moment in joining, for fear of missing the opportunity ; and, as Captain Hamilton, I believe, is not in health to join, you will immediately turn over your recruiting party to him, for which, as I have not time to-day to write to him also, this letter must be considered a sufficient authority to you both.

“ Pray remember me most affectionately to your excellent father and mother, and to your brother David, and your two

sisters, and believe me ever to be, with the most friendly regards.

“ Dear St. Clair,

“ Yours faithfully,

“ EDWARD.”

“ P. S.—Having completed my franks, I inclose the order to Lieutenant M'Lean to join you, which you will be so good as to forward with all possible expedition ; and, at the same time, make the necessary arrangements for the removal of his party to join Lieutenant M'Donald at Aberdeen.

“ E.”

After complying with his Royal Highness's directions, I hurried home to inform my parents of the orders which I had just received. I saw the tears shoot from my dear mother's eyes. We were all in deep mourning for my poor brother William, who was killed in the preceding February, in the capture of Martinique, and the idea of the loss she had just sustained, and my going into danger of the same kind, threw her into hysterics. With some trouble we recovered her: my sisters secretly fell to work to complete my kit for service; and, after closing my accounts, I was ready to start on the 5th of June.

My recruiting serjeant, Fraser, a steady and good soldier, waited on me immediately after receiving my order to join, and begged me to inform his Royal Highness of his ardent desire to be employed on service with me; offering to be at his own expense in joining the 3d Battalion, at any place or quarter, if his Royal Highness would but grant him permission. I was delighted with such an offer, but could not give him much hopes of succeeding, as I knew that the 3d Battalion was already completed for service; but, being fully aware of his Royal Highness's wish to learn the feelings and desires of every man under him, I immediately stated this wish of so excellent a non-commissioned officer, and my anxiety to have him with me. The following was his Royal Highness's answer.

“ Kensington Palace,  
1st June, 1809.

“ DEAR ST. CLAIR,

“ I have just received your letter of the 29th ult. which is exactly like yourself and the excellent stock you came from.

Feeling, therefore, as I do towards you, it would be the most gratifying thing in the world to me, instantly to accede to the wish you express of taking Serjeant Fraser with you to the 3d Battalion, which is no less natural on your part than honourable on his, could I, in justice to the 4th Battalion, consent to it. But, when I tell you that the day before yesterday a draft of nine serjeants took place, by order of the commander-in-chief, from the 4th to the 3d Battalion, and that, having given up every effective man, to make up the 1,000 rank and file of the latter, they have hardly an aspirant left fit to promote in their place, I am confident you will feel that I am unavoidably precluded from complying with your request, which I cannot tell you how much it vexes me.

“ From what you state of the time it will take you to settle your recruiting accounts, I reckon you may be at Chelmsford about the 10th or 12th, which I trust will be a sufficient time for you to catch the Battalion before they march.

“ As Captain Clayhill and Lieutenant Richie have received similar orders to you, perhaps you will be able to arrange to come together.

“ Dear St. Clair,

“ Yours faithfully,

“ EDWARD.”

I immediately informed Serjeant Fraser of his Royal Highness's answer, and the poor fellow almost burst into tears on being made acquainted with it; but I in a great measure consoled him, by promising not to forget him, and to exert all my interest with the

Duke of Kent to get him in the Battalion as soon as a vacancy should occur among the serjeants of his rank. Proceeding immediately to the coach-office, I was much disappointed on finding every inside place taken for the next three days. Nothing, however, could damp my anxiety to join my regiment, and I secured an outside place for the next evening.

Painful was the parting from my beloved parents. My mother, wiping her eyes, exclaimed, "My dear boy, do not allow our affliction to distress you; do your duty, and we will beseech the Almighty to preserve you."

At seven o'clock in the evening I was seated behind the coachman, and found by my side Captain Erskine, of the 6th Regiment, whose corps was likewise ordered on the same expedition. My dear old father, with every serjeant, every corporal, the privates, and all the recruits of the Royal Scots, in Edinburgh, and some of my most intimate young friends, were there to bid me farewell; and,

Coachy cracking his whip, off we drove over the North Bridge, down the Cannongate, and soon lost sight of Auld Reekie. I know not whether it is fortune or misfortune which has never since permitted me to return to so agreeable a place, among so many esteemed friends. They have ever been fresh in my memory, and the grandeur and magnificent situation of Edinburgh have never yet been surpassed, in my recollection, by any city that I have seen. I rather opine, however, that neither of the above-mentioned ladies has been the exclusive cause of my absence ; as, after the long-desired peace with France, I placed an English rose next to my heart, and, being afraid lest the northern blast should blight her, I have not yet ventured to cross the Tweed again.

The night was cold, dark, and tempestuous, but Erskine and I kept ourselves warm in conversation on the glories which would soon be within our grasp. A Scotch mist, which would wet any Englishman to the skin,

was falling fast, and every peep we had of a solitary house or tree near the road-side was through this hazy medium: our ideas partook largely of the dulness of the atmosphere we were breathing, for we soon decided that nothing short of Paris was the object of our expedition, that it could not resist our arms, and that the dethroning of Napoleon must follow. At length day-light again dawned upon us, but still no sun warmed our veins; for the day, like the night, was dark and gloomy; a cold north-easterly wind was blowing through us, bringing on a fall of sleet, which soon ended in snow. The coachman recommended us to follow his example, in drinking "a doctor," which we readily complied with.

At length night came on again colder than ever, and its effect upon us was to close our eyes. The coachman warned us not to indulge in this luxury; but he might as well have told his horses not to eat oats, until a jolt of the coach sent us both head foremost

against his back. We now perceived the utility of purchasing a piece of rope at the place where we supped, and, tying it round our bodies, we fastened it to the iron railing on each side; and then, leaning shoulder to shoulder, we enjoyed a sort of rocking uncomfortable slumber. At that period the roads were not in the state into which M'Adam has since brought them; and the Edinburgh mail required two days and three nights to complete the journey.

We arrived at six o'clock in the morning at the Post Office, in Lombard Street, and, tumbling immediately into bed at the Bull and Mouth, the whole of that day was spent in a sound sleep; nor did I once open my eyes again until nine in the evening, when I found it too late to execute my commissions.

The next morning, rising early, I waited on his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, at Kensington, to report my arrival; and so agreeable, pleasant, and thoroughly good-humoured, did I find him, that his Royal



Highness quite won my admiration by his manners, as he already had done my love and esteem for his kind attentions to me. He was glad to see me so punctual, and, shaking me by the hand, said, "Tell Hay I shall be down to inspect you before you march." After he had condoled with me on the loss of my brother, William, I took my leave, and the same evening joined my regiment, in Chelmsford.

I found the 3d Battalion of this ancient corps composed of fine, young, and healthy men, anxious to add fresh laurels to those already gained by their predecessors.

On the 23d of June, we received orders to prepare for immediate embarkation, and the day following were paraded at eleven o'clock in heavy marching order, for the inspection of the Duke of Kent, who was expected from London. The companies were just marching into column as his Royal Highness drove in at the gate of the barracks, one of those temporary wooden buildings erected a few years previously in many parts of

England for the accommodation of troops at the most essential points for resisting Napoleon's threatened invasion; but how the tables were now turning! Instead of our waiting to receive bloody noses at home, we were starting to give them to our enemies on the continent. The impression made by the misfortunes of Sir John Moore's expedition had already passed away; and Sir Arthur Wellesley was proving to the world that England can produce soldiers equal to any in Europe.

Marshal Junot had, in the preceding year, surrendered Lisbon; and the news had just arrived that Sir Arthur Wellesley had, by a sudden movement from Coimbra, defeated Marshal Soult in Oporto; and that, in the following month, he was again victorious over Joseph Bonaparte, Marshals Jourdan and Victor, at Talavera della Reyna. What a pity our force was not sent to join him! But there is a flood-tide which leads on to glory, and ours had not yet arrived.

A room had been prepared in the barracks

for his Royal Highness to dress in uniform, and, just as the regiment formed into line and opened ranks, out he stepped on parade. The "Present arms" was now ordered, and the thousand left hands struck at the same instant on the musket slings, in true German style. No troops, between Ottersdorf and Neuorschova, or from Frankfort to Chelm, could have performed the manœuvre with such precision. His Royal Highness then ordered the colonel to close ranks, and march past in slow and quick time; and never was there peacock or bantam, dunghill or game-cock, who strutted along holding his head higher than I did.

The duke was standing with our commanding officer by his side, both of them dressed in the same uniform to a button, a white sword-belt hanging from the right shoulder of each, the sash tied exactly the same length, pantaloons and boots made after the same model, cocked hat square to the front, hair tied in regimental order. Still

the difference was striking and visible ; for at this period his Royal Highness was, without exception, the handsomest man I had ever seen. Royalty was stamped upon him. His countenance beamed with generosity, and his figure with manly prowess. We next formed in open column, right in front. He commenced a close inspection of the men and their accoutrements, beginning with the grenadiers : and, on arriving at mine, his Royal Highness was pleased to make many jocose remarks in passing down the ranks. I pointed out thirty of my men, whom I had enlisted from the Dalkeith militia, fine steady young soldiers. His Royal Highness expressed himself much pleased with them, and good-humouredly said, “ Be attentive to what your captain orders, and I will answer for his attention to you.”

After this inspection was over, Colonel Hay called all the officers to the front, when his Royal Highness expressed his pleasure at seeing his 3d Battalion in so effective a

state. "You will soon be called upon," said he, "to act before an enemy, and I shall expect to hear praises of your conduct." The carriage now driving up, he stepped into it, and returned to London, leaving both officers and men filled with admiration of his Royal Highness's appearance and manners, which had struck us all most forcibly.

The next morning, the 25th of June, at five o'clock, A. M., my company in the first division, with four others under the command of Majors Muller and Hill, marched through Chelmsford, with drums beating—"Ah, Johnny Cope, are ye waking yet." Numberless were the nightcaps seen peeping at the windows and behind the blinds, and, as we recognised a fair acquaintance, a kiss of the hand, with a smile, conveyed a farewell token of esteem. On reaching London, we had to perform the ceremony of demanding permission from the Lord Mayor to march through the city, on obtaining which, bayonets were unfixed before we proceeded.

Marching over London Bridge, we halted on the third night at Kingston. We had just arrived, covered with dust, and half choaked with heat, when we perceived our colonel, the Duke of Kent, driving up the street in which we were, seated in a little pony phaëton, dressed in a gray surtout coat, with web pantaloons of the same colour, and buttoned up to his throat. Major Muller instantly called us to attention; and his Royal Highness, passing down our ranks, inspected the manner in which the knapsacks were carried, pointing to some soldiers who had them hanging low, and explaining how much less they would feel their weight by carrying them higher on their shoulders. He expressed himself pleased with our appearance, and, ordering us to quarter our men, took his leave.

On the 2d of July, we marched through Bucklands, close to Portsmouth, and encamped on South Sea Common, where we received the following order:—

General Order, Portsmouth, 2d July, 1809.

Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote, having arrived, will take the command of the troops assembled in camp; all returns and reports will be made to him.

Extract: — “All regiments encamped are to send in to Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh, Assistant Adjutant General, an exact return of their effective numbers present, and ready to embark.”

The next morning, the 2nd division of our regiment, under Colonel Hay, marched in; and each company took up its station in the line of our encampment.

On the 9th and 10th the 35th Regiment encamped on our left; when the following orders were received, which now opened our eyes upon the strength of this expedition.

London, 9th July, 1809.

His Majesty has been pleased to approve of the following officers being attached to the troops about to proceed on a particular service:

Lieutenant-General the Earl of Chatham, K. B. Commander of the Forces.

Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote, Second in Command.

Lieutenant-Generals — Sir John Cradock, K. B.; the Earl of Rosslyn; the Earl of Grosvenor; Sir John Hope, K. B.; M'Kenzie Fraser; Lord Paget; Brownrigg.

Major-Generals — Linsingen, Graham, Earl of Dalhousie, Dyott, Leith, Picton, Stewart, Sir W. Erskine.

Brigadier-Generals—Houston, Disney, Montresor, Ackland, St. Cerge, Rottenburg, Brown.

Colonels on the Staff—Thomas Mahon, Baron Alten.

Quarter-Master-General—Lieutenant-Colonel Brownrigg.

Deputy-Quarter-Master-General—Lieutenant-Colonel Birch.

Assistant-Quarter-Master-Generals—Lieutenant-Colonel Ophney, King's German Legion, with fifteen others.

Adjutant-General—Colonel Long, 15th Light Dragoons.

Deputy-Adjutant-Generals — Lieutenant-Colonels Leech and Darling, with twenty assistants.

It has already been explained that the nature of the service on which the troops are to be employed does not admit of any women or children accompanying their corps; and that six per company will be permitted to remain in the barracks with the baggage of their regiments: the rest will receive the usual allowance to assist them in returning to their respective homes.

General Graham, who afterwards gained the title of Lord Lyndoch for his meritorious services in the Peninsula, was at this time a most agreeable gentlemanly officer: he had entered the army late in life by raising a regiment (the 90th light infantry), which at once made him full colonel; and, wherever he has been employed, he has always proved himself an active, brave, and zealous officer.

Among his most valorous achievements



was that afterwards performed at Barrosa, in Spain, where, with a small force of British and Portuguese troops, his lordship defeated Marshal Victor, with two divisions under Generals Ruffin and Laval, on the 6th March, 1811; taking an eagle, six pieces of cannon, the General of Division Ruffin, the General of Brigade Rosseau, the Chief of the Staff General Bellegarde, an aide-de-camp of Marshal Victor's, the colonel of the 8th Regiment, with many other officers. Indeed, on that day, nothing could so strongly attest the confidence placed by his troops in their brave commander as the field covered with the dead bodies of their enemies.

At this period, being most anxious to instil into the young troops under his command the necessary rules to be observed in long marches with a large body, General Graham tried his division in this useful exercise, and gave out the following order:

Division Order, 14th July, 1809.

The march of the column of the first division was made in such order, and such attention paid to the principles of rule

marching, that Major-General Graham was highly gratified by it. The advantage of that regular and uniform pace throughout every division of a column can alone be attained by the unremitting attention of the officers.

The fatigue occasioned by frequent halts and irregular movements of different parts of the column is hereby avoided, and a long march, on which success so often depends, may be performed with certainty.

At length the long desired order for our embarkation arrived, and rejoicings were heard through the tented field, as the following was given out:

The infantry will embark at 5 P. M. on Sunday morning, the 17th instant. The brigades encamped on South Sea Common to embark from that beach: and the brigades on Gosport side of the water to embark in Stokes Bay.

A fine fleet of men-of-war, composed of vessels of all sizes, from a line-of-battle ship to a sloop-of-war, were lying at Spithead, to receive us; and on Sunday morning the whole of the troops on South Sea Beach formed in front of their encampment, and, marching down to the boats in the highest order, were embarked by regiments on board the ships destined to receive us.

The Royal Regiment were one thousand

rank and file, young and healthy men. The morning was favourable for the embarkation, and we jumped into the boats in excellent spirits. The naval arrangements were so admirably regulated that, in a quarter of an hour, out of ten thousand men, nothing was seen on the beach but their unfortunate wives and children bewailing the departure of their husbands and fathers. Alas! how few were ever to return in the same health in which we now departed from our native coast! We stepped into our boats full of ardour and activity: but how little did we then suspect the direful effects of the Walcheren fever, which was soon to strike our finest men and officers with disease and death!

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent here again saved our feelings the distressing sight which was witnessed by nearly every other regiment. An immense number of women and children lined the beach; and, as their husbands or fathers stepped into the boats, the air was rent with cries and screams of

distress from these helpless creatures, and we saw them, from the deck of the men-of-war, seated in the same place until night hid them from our view. His Royal Highness would not allow one woman to march from Chelmsford with the regiment, giving orders to have them all accommodated in the barracks we were leaving until our return.

Seven of our companies were pulled for the *Revenge*, 74, and these were Captain Rowan's, St. Clair's, Smith's, Torrens's, Mitchell's, Clayhill's, and Donovan's. Major Gordon, who had joined to take command of our battalion, on Colonel Hay being appointed to the command of the brigade, and Major Swan Hill, also accompanied us; whilst Colonel Hay, with the grenadiers and light company, under Captain Wilson and his son, George Hay, with Captain Hamilton, who had lately joined us from Scotland, went on board the *Eagle*.

On gaining the deck of the *Revenge*, we were received by her captain, the Honourable Charles Paget, (now Admiral Sir Charles

Paget, K. C. B.) and his officers, with great civility and attention. During the whole time we were on board we found their kindness to us increase daily; for the better they knew us the more they loved us; and I will defy the whole world to produce such hearts, such courage, or such feelings, as those possessed by our navy in general. At this period all jealousies between the two services had ceased, for we soldiers had already proved to them that the only difference between a British sailor and a British soldier was in the colour of their coats; and we are greatly indebted to Napoleon for making our two services as one in esteem and friendship.

The arrangements, cleanliness, and discipline, on board this ship struck me with astonishment, and I felt convinced that the wooden walls of Old England were capable of protecting our snug little island against the united forces of the world.

At an early hour we all assembled with the officers in the ward-room to dinner, which we

found excellent, and the arrangements for so large a party most comfortable. Here again we had a specimen of the generosity of our Government, in making for each of us soldiers an allowance to the wardroom mess to supply us with necessaries.

At night hammocks were slung in rows for our accommodation, and I had just fallen into my first sleep when a blow upon my head almost stunned me. I gazed about me to see what had happened, and beheld a flock of young midshipmen running forward, cutting down every hammock in their way, and screaming with laughter as they lowered a "lobster" by the head. Some of our officers did not take it so good-humouredly as others, but uttered loud oaths against the "tarry-breeched Jacks," and, with difficulty getting free of their hammocks, succeeded in chasing them from the cabin. We had a work of some difficulty, before we could arrange the tackling to sling them again, but were permitted to sleep in peace for the rest of the voyage.

In the afternoon the following general order was brought to us by our adjutant :

General Order, 16th July, 1809.

It afforded Lieutenant-General Fraser much satisfaction to notice, in the fullest manner, the very orderly and regular conduct of the troops during the embarkation, which took place this morning, and reflects the highest credit on all persons concerned : and will enable him to make the most favourable report of their good behaviour to Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote.

## CHAPTER XIV.

Fleet sails from Spithead—Joins the Fleet under Sir Richard Strachan—General Lord Paget—Marquis of Anglesey, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—Departure of the Fleet from England—Total Force—Island of Walcheren—Nature of the Coast—Unjust Depreciation of an Enemy—Generous Behaviour of a French Colonel—Landing of the Troops—Accident to Major Hill—How to make one's self comfortable—Plum-pudding Cannon-balls—Soliloquy—A Sand-bed.

WE lay some days at Spithead without orders to put to sea, and found our naval companions as ignorant of our destination as ourselves. I amused myself by counting the number of vessels at anchor, which I found to amount to nineteen sail of the line, six frigates, with numerous smaller men-of-war and transports.

On Tuesday, the 25th of July, 1809, the signal was hoisted for sailing, and the above fleet got under weigh, and stood up for the



Downs. Holland was now the country we expected to campaign in. We were three days in making this voyage, owing to the lightness of the wind; but, on the morning of the 28th, we beheld a sight which made our hearts leap with delight. The whole surface of the water, as far as we could see, was covered by a magnificent fleet, under the command of Sir Richard Strachan, K. B., to which we were now bearing up in order to join it.

The chalk cliffs along the shore of Old England were crowded with a concourse of people, staring with astonishment at the power of their country. Pity that with such an armament so little should have been accomplished!

Lieutenant-General Lord Paget now embarked on board his brother's ship the *Revenge*, with his two aide-de-camps, Captain Baron Tuyll (the present Colonel Sir William Tuyll, K. C. H.) and Captain Thornton, both of his lordship's regiment, the 7th Hussars.

He was a splendid figure in his Hussar general's uniform ; upright as a dart, with a limb from which Apollo's might have been moulded. During the short time I was on board with him, I was invited once or twice by Captain Paget to dinner ; and was delighted with both the brothers, more particularly his lordship's manners, which proved him a perfect nobleman ; but still he seemed sometimes to feel the superiority which Nature had given him over the mass of mankind. We all know his prowess in love and war to be quite chivalric.

In April, 1833, just twenty-four years after this period, I was one of the twelve lieutenant-colonels whom the Irish facetiously called the Twelve Apostles, sent by his Majesty's command to Dublin, to be employed upon a particular duty under the 13th clause of the " Act for the more effectual suppression of local disturbances in Ireland," and there met his lordship as Marquis of Anglesey and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

In the month of May, I had the honour of

being invited to the Phœnix Park to dinner; and, on the company being assembled, his Excellency walked into the room, and went round the circle which the guests had formed, with a word for every one in passing. On his stopping with me, I reminded his lordship of my being embarked with him in the *Revenge*, in 1809, and of his leading the 3d Battalion Royal Regiment, to which I then belonged, up the sand-hills on the island of Walcheren. He seemed pleased at the recollection, and for some time stopped talking with me on the subject; and I was happy to find him in manners as delightful as ever: but all-destroying Time had made havoc in his appearance, though perhaps not so much as in my own. The loss of his leg at Waterloo, for which he had to undergo two amputations, must have made him look several years older; but, when seated at table, I gazed with admiration at a man of such renowned military qualifications and such courtierlike manners. He himself intimated to me his wish to be considered

younger than he really was, by shifting the situation of a wig, which I had supposed to be his own hair, for it was gray.

His lordship informed me after dinner that he had been actually sometimes maddened with the excruciating agonies of the *tic douloureux*. I pitied him from my heart, having myself suffered from the same painful complaint during the last six years.

Colonel Baron Sir William Tuyll sat opposite to his lordship; and I perceived the change in the appearance of this gentleman to be even more marked than in that of the marquis himself, notwithstanding his lordship's sufferings since the time I had last seen him on board the *Revenge*.

The moment for our departure from the coast of Britain at length arrived. The blue peter had been flying the whole evening of the 28th of July; and, early on the morning of the 29th, our division of the fleet got under weigh, and we stood over in the direction of the river Scheldt.

Ship after ship of this prodigious fleet hoisted their sails ; and I am certain that, had they been linked together, we might have marched along their decks from England to Holland : as it was, on our gaining mid-channel, nothing could be seen but shipping, which were like a flock of wild-fowl whirling their course through the air, following their leader ahead of us ; whilst the sluggards lingered too far in the rear to be visible.

I counted thirty-eight sail of the line and thirty-two frigates, with numerous smaller ships of war, gun-boats, and transports, amounting in the whole to upwards of eight hundred and thirty sail, which vessels had on board nearly 40,000 troops, fit for any undertaking. This was the most numerous and best appointed armament that ever left the shores of Old England.

As we approached the coast of Holland, the breeze freshened, but the weather the whole day was delightful ; and at 5 P. M. we anchored off the island of Walcheren, West

Capell being only eight miles distant. Orders were given to cook provisions and prepare for landing.

We could now distinguish only the sand-hills which bordered this part of the island, the sand which composed it lying considerably below the level of the ocean on the other side. These hills I afterwards found to be principally the work of nature aided by man : every gale of wind from the northward and westward, agitating the loose sand upon the beach below, blows it into heaps, when the ingenious Dutchman, wishing to retain it as a barrier against the sea, falls to work with straw, of which there is abundance from his crops, and, placing it in long thin bunches on this loose material, presses the end of it in with a cramped iron attached to a stick ; by these means not only preventing the surface from being blown away, but also accumulating quantities of this article brought up at low water from the beach.

This work has been continued for centuries, the sand lying coat over coat, until these hills have been raised a sufficient height to serve as a barrier against the sea ; and, by degrees becoming partially covered with rank grass and weeds, these accumulations must now, according to the course of nature, be rather increased than diminished by storms.

With all our spy-glasses, which were now in use, we could discover nothing like troops on shore, though we looked for them in all directions, being most anxious to see what we then considered the *maigre* Frenchmen, whom we expected shortly to see spitted on the bayonets of our fine young soldiers, as they serve the frogs in their own country. What folly it is to decry our enemies ! From a child I had heard the French nation abused. Monsieur Crapaud and Monsieur Soupe Maigre were the names I had heard applied, and they were lowered in my estimation by my nursery-maid ; but, from ocular demonstration of their gallantry in action, I soon found

them rise in my opinion ; for good soldiers and brave men they certainly proved themselves. It is true that those whom we encountered in this island were too loose and irregular in their movements to cope with such experienced troops as ours ; still, on two or three occasions, we found them extremely tenacious and difficult to move from their ground.

Many of their officers, in the long struggle which we afterwards had with them in the Peninsular war, behaved themselves in a chivalric and heroic manner ; and I cannot give a more striking proof of this than in the conduct of a French colonel of cavalry, against whom Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, commanding our 14th Light Dragoons, made a most desperate charge, leading on his regiment. The French colonel put his corps in motion to meet the shock of the British, and, seeing their commanding officer, rode at him, pointed his sword at his breast, and in the next moment would have run



Colonel Harvey through the body, but, observing his right sleeve hanging empty by his side, he raised his sword, and the commanding officer of the 14th Light Dragoons passed under it uninjured.

Colonel Harvey was one of those who were wounded in that brilliant attack made by Sir Arthur Wellesley on the 12th of May, 1808, and lost his right arm by amputation, at the capture of Oporto from Marshal Soult. He received his wound in clearing a road of the enemy.

Although, in this description of my campaigns, I point out to my readers the fine manly feeling and generosity of an enemy, yet I fear I shall have a few stains of cruelty and rapacity also to lay at their door before I have done with them. I give blame and praise where it is due, and only state such facts as I witnessed.

On Sunday morning, the 30th of July, the fleet was again under weigh, and, keeping about the same distance from land, to avoid

touching the shallow coast by which it is surrounded, we passed the northernmost point, called the Bree Zand, and entered the Room Pot, which is a channel between Walcheren and North Beveland. Here our gun-boats kept between our line-of-battle ships and Walcheren, running close along the shore; and the Battery Haack opened on them, but was soon silenced and taken possession of by our seamen. The fort Camp Vere, which was considerably higher up in the Room Pot, kept up a tremendous fire against all that approached it.

The weather was now fine and clear, though the tide hurrying up the Room Pot made the sea rather rough. At last the long-desired signal was given to anchor and prepare the troops for landing. Having seen a few heads peeping over the sand-hills, we expected a resistance to be made against us.

An enormous line of men-of-war now anchored, swinging with their heads against the tide, and the flat-bottomed boats which each

vessel had on board, for the purpose of landing the troops, were instantly lowered for our reception. The orders which had been already given out were, that each of the captains commanding companies should take the bows of his boat, to be ready to jump on shore the instant it touched land ; to form his company and advance with the utmost rapidity, in order to get possession of the heights.

The friendship which had by this time sprung up between the officers of the *Revenge* and ourselves was now strongly manifested, and nothing could prove it more than their anxiety for our safety and comfort. Three days' provisions had been issued to the men, and an immoderate quantity of beef and biscuit had been stowed into our havresacks. This was not enough ; each officer's canteen had been filled with excellent brandy, and, as each company advanced to the gangway, there stood the ship's cook, ready to fill up the remaining space in our havresacks with smoking hot plum-puddings ; and, in

true seaman-like style, they insisted on each of us land-lubbers carrying a brace of large weighty ship-pistols, which they stuck into our sashes, telling us they were capital for self-defence.

In this state, armed like an Italian bandit, laden with five plum-puddings, besides beef, biscuit, my shaving articles, and clean shirt, with a Scotch plaid hung from my shoulders, I contrived, though with considerable difficulty, to let myself down the walled side of the old *Revenge* into my boat, in the stern of which were already seated Major Hill and my two subalterns, with 100 rank and file of my company.

Each boat, as it filled with troops, dropped astern, until the last arrived, when Captain Paget calling out, "Now, boys! let go!" in an instant our heads were to shore. The ship's company gave us three cheers, which were answered by us, with a hearty good-will. On nearing the shore, Captain Paget passed us ahead, having with him his brother,

Lieutenant-General Lord Paget, seated by his side. We were now in the Veerse Gat, which lies between the Battery Haack and Camp Vere, and the next minute all our captains sprang on shore at one and the same moment: so dexterously were the boats kept in line, that we all touched the shore at the same time.

I now leaped from my boat up to my knees in water, and stood on the beach, forming my men as they arrived. Poor Major Hill, seeing me safely landed, thought that he might do the same from the stern of the boat, not considering that the water must here be deep, from the steep slope of the beach: accordingly he made a spring and disappeared. His cocked hat was the first thing seen floating on the surface of the water, and, fortunately for him, one of my men seized him by the hair of his head, and pulled him forward till he gained a footing.

I had no time to lose upon inquiries, for already the two bold brothers, the Pagets,

had mounted a sand-hill, and his Lordship's cap was waving us on. It might have been truly said of me that I was one who

Had never set a squadron in the field,  
Nor the division of a battle knew,  
More than a spinster—"

yet, on I dashed with my company; but, on gaining the heights, saw only a few jägers scouring to a wood, without looking behind them. The 71st Regiment, under Colonel Pack, with our flank companies, immediately advanced, and a fire of musketry soon commenced in the wood under the hills, where they made some prisoners, and drove the enemy before them.

After standing to our arms for some hours, we were ordered to make ourselves comfortable for the night; and each of us had his length of excellent soft sand for his resting-place during the night, and the canopy of heaven for his tent. In a few moments some holes were scooped out like so many graves,

in which we stretched ourselves until daylight the next morning.

Major Hill lay in a hole near to me; his clothes had not dried upon him during the afternoon, and his teeth were now chattering with cold from the soaking he had received on landing. I pulled off my plaid cloak, and, covering him with it, begged he would make use of it; and, again seating myself in my grave, began eating the only plum-pudding left in my havresack. The others I was obliged to cast away, on my first advance up the sand-hills, as I found that their weight kept me puffing and blowing, and I d——d each pudding as I lightened the weight across my breast. Now, however, finding the remaining one so hard, I wished for them all back again, considering that, in case of our coming to close quarters with the enemy, they might serve for cannon-shot, and be useful to me in knocking them down.

I lay at full length with my head supported by one of my soldiers' knapsacks: my eyes

fixed upon heaven, my thoughts still upon earth. Trusting to our piquets to protect us, I began to soliloquise :—

Well, said I to myself, my friend Tom, you have now obtained your most anxious desire, to campaign in an enemy's country—how do you like it?

Why, as far as I have yet seen, I answered, very much, because the path of glory is now before me.

Glory! said I; what is glory?

It is a combination of daring and danger, which causes an odd sort of sensation that thrills through our veins when near an enemy.

It gains us admiration from the fair sex; esteem from our comrades; and honours from our country.

And, what portion of either do you expect to win in this campaign? said I.

Merely the crumbs which may fall from the grasp of my commanding officer, I replied.

Oho! then you are easily satisfied?



Little dogs, I replied, must be content with little: but each campaign which I undertake will be so much knowledge gained in my profession, and my heart now feels delighted with this happy commencement.

You fool! said I; this may be its last jump; for who knows but that to-morrow a French ball or Dutch bayonet may stop the spring of its action!

I did not admire this last reply, to which I was at a loss for an answer; and, turning round to consider of one, I found a soft rain falling fast upon me. The wind now blew cool, and I tasted my brandy. The sound of my major's teeth, which were chattering like nut-crackers, now struck upon my ear, and I rose to offer him my canteen-bottle to warm his blood. Libation after libation did he swallow, until the bottle was emptied; and I felt happy in thus returning a foolish challenge, which he had sent me two years before in Demerara. On regaining my hole in the sand, I found it well soaked with the rain,

and laying myself again on its humid surface,

“ I slept the sleep that knows not breaking ;”

but, before morning, found all my courage had evaporated, for I was now cold and shivering.

Thus ended the first night of my campaigns, and, before the rising sun cheered us with its warmth, we stood to our arms, until day-light showed us that no enemy was near.

## CHAPTER XV.

Fort of Vere taken—Surrender of Middelburg—Advance of the Troops—Courtesy of the Country People—Their Dress—Beneficial effect of Smoking—Extraordinary Nose—A Digression on Sneezing—Prometheus and his clay man—Customary Salutations on Sneezing among different Nations—Omens derived from Sneezing—Quarters in a Bean-field—Advance upon Flushing—Attack and Capture of a Signal-post—Strict Discipline of the Troops—The Battery of Dishock carried—The Nolle Dike—A Fatal Shot—Approach of the Troops to the Works of Flushing—A Remarkable Musket-shot—Bivouac—Incessant but useless Fire of the Enemy.

ON the 31st of July, a loud firing from the fort of Vere, which was at some distance on our left, soon attracted our attention, and the answer from the musketry of the 71st Regiment plainly told us that the attack upon it had commenced; but, although they did not succeed on the first rush, the garrison immediately surrendered themselves prisoners of war to Colonel Pack. Shortly after the ces-

sation of the firing, intelligence was brought to us that Middelburg, the capital of the island, and situated near its centre, had surrendered to our left column.

Orders now arrived for our advance, and, unshaven and unshorn, we commenced our march. Descending from the sand-hills, we entered a perfectly level but rich country, highly cultivated, and intersected with broad ditches, filled with water. The road on which we proceeded having one of these trenches on either side, it would have been easy for the enemy to retard our advance by cutting up these roads; but, fortunately for us, no such measures were put in practice, and we marched on without the smallest interruption.

The Royal Regiment were on the extreme right of General Graham's division, and we passed many comfortable farm buildings close to the road-side; the terrified inhabitants of which busied themselves in bringing pails of milk and water to refresh us. They were a robust-looking peasantry, with round faces

and high colour, some of the young women not ill-looking, though with mighty stout figures and clumsy legs. Their dress was singular to us strangers, their petticoats being exceedingly short, and put on one over the other so as to give them that rotundity of appearance, which in this country is denoted by the term "Dutch-built." Their little plain caps resembled those worn by the lower class in Scotland called "mutches," and a bright-coloured cotton handkerchief covered their necks; whilst their legs, which they seemed to take pleasure in showing, had much the appearance of mill-posts, well covered with blue worsted stockings, and a pair of thick shoes. Some of them had large pendent earrings of gold, others rows of chains of the same metal round their necks.

The men were generally in coarse garments, each with a pipe in his mouth, which was also used by little boys from eight to ten years old. Their hats were round in the crown, with large brims.

I took the hint of smoking from these people, seeing the necessity of it in this climate, and, as soon as I possibly could, procured a meerschaum pipe, with some of their best canaster tobacco, which was hardly ever out of my mouth, whilst I continued in this unwholesome country, except to admit more solid refreshment; and to this circumstance I attribute my escape from the horrid ague, afterwards termed the Walcheren fever, which so completely destroyed this army.

I cannot refrain from mentioning that on the road this day we were ordered to open files, to permit a little Dutchman in the English service to pass. General S. was now employed in gaining information of the enemy, and at the same time making purchases of provisions, stores, and forage, for our supplies. It was on this occasion that, as I have related in a preceding chapter, my attention was called by the exclamation of one of my men to the extraordinary nose of that officer. I certainly could not refrain from looking up at

him as he passed, nor can I express my astonishment on beholding a nose which surpassed all other noses I had ever before seen in length, breadth, and magnitude: as Mont Blanc surpasses all the other Alps in height, so did this nose tower above all other earthly noses.

He was a small man, well mounted on a good English charger, and rode bending forward, as if yielding to the weight of his nose, dressed in a blue military coat, with a sash and sword round his waist; but, as if proud of his proboscis, he had stuck on the top of his head a small-brimmed round hat, (such as is worn by dandies in the present day,) in order, as I imagined, to show it off to more advantage.

I really could not refrain from joining in the laugh which followed this nose from the rear to the front of our regiment; and I wished the poor man well rid of such a misshapen handle to his face, which would have graced any museum if well preserved in spi-

rits. Far be it from me to insinuate that it was already soaked in them. I have somewhere read that the ancients considered sneezing not always to be a good omen ; still I would have given much to have heard this trumpet sound.

When Prometheus made his man of clay, we are told that he summoned all the animals around him, that he might borrow the peculiar qualities of each, to impart to his new being ; such as the cunning of the fox, the pride of the peacock, the ferocity of the tiger, the gentleness of the lamb, and the courage of the lion. The new man was seized with a fit of sneezing, which so terrified the beasts that they all immediately took to their heels, leaving him in possession of their qualities, and undisputed lord of the terrestrial creation. In sneezing, however, he extinguished the spark of fire brought down to animate him, which so irritated Prometheus, that he was about to crush his new-formed automaton ; but fortunately he sneezed again, and



his puff of breath rekindled the spark of life and reanimated him. In the effort he blew out some of his infirm teeth, and his first attempt to speak was "Jupiter, help me!" praying that no such accident should happen to him again. From that time down to the present has the practice of pronouncing a salutation or blessing upon a sneeze prevailed amongst mankind; and it is now found to be the usage in almost every part of the globe, although in many places the memory of its origin is lost. An Arab says on the occasion, *Hanaan!* "Mercy on me!" to which the bystanders answer by *Alla y Hamet!* "May God have mercy on you!" The Turks say to the person who sneezes, *Ther ossun!* "May it do you good!" and sometimes *Emrouni Tchoke allion!* "May your life be continued!" The Armenians are particular, and never neglect to exclaim, *Kher Ghulla!* which implies, "May the act never harm you!" The Greeks exclaim, *Zethi!* an expression equal to "Long life to

you!" Among the people of the west, the Portuguese, and generally the Italians and the Spaniards, use the words, *Boanna provita!* "May it do you good!" or, *Viva!* "Long life to you!" the whole of the company bowing with respect. Among the French and English, the custom, as might be expected, is falling into disuse; and the French "*A vos souhaits!*" with the English "God bless you!" is now rejected as a superstitious practice.

By the Irish it is still considered a symptom of pestilence, which at different periods raged in their country; and they never fail to ejaculate, in the most pious manner, to the sneezer, *Die ling!* "God protect you!" and they sometimes say, *Die lath morra sneesheen!* "God be with you!" unless it be the effect of snuff.

Telemachus sneezed so loud that the house resounded; and Penelope laughed with pleasure, for she considered it a certain omen of the success of her prayer.

“ She spoke—Telemachus then sneezed aloud !  
Constrained, his nostrils echoed through the crowd ;  
The smiling queen the happy omen blest.”

Whilst Xenophon was haranguing his soldiers, one of them sneezed. He was at the moment advising a dangerous undertaking, which his troops were indisposed to venture on ; but no sooner did this lucky omen, as they considered it, reach their ears, than they at once resolved on the attack.

I wondered now if S.'s sneeze would have had the same effect on our enemies as that of Prometheus's clay man had upon the animals which heard him ; but this treat we were not destined to be indulged with ; for the big-nosed general turned off by another road leading to the left.

We now halted within a quarter of a mile of the small town of Aechtekerke, and our piquets were sent out to cover the front and flank. As it was not my turn for duty, I was sent with the rest of our regiment into a bean-field to take up our quarters for the

night. The crops at this time were all standing in the island, and surprised us much by their luxuriance; for, such was the height these beans had attained, that they far overtopped our tallest grenadier. Our men, immediately setting to work, soon converted them into huts for their officers and themselves. Upon them, and under them, rolled in our cloaks, we slept soundly during the night, though the perfume, or rather sickly smell, which they emitted was by no means agreeable.

The next morning, the 1st of August, as daylight dawned, we were again under arms, standing upon our ground until it was ascertained whether the enemy were near us or not. The piquets having been called in, we now proceeded through Aechtekerke, on our advance upon Flushing. The sand-hills we plainly observed, extending on the right hand to front and rear. We soon observed a flag-staff on one of them, communicating our movements, by signals, to Flushing. Our

Brigadier-general, Colonel Hay, rode up to Major Gordon, and directed him to move the Royal Regiment down to the right, and destroy it. The major was mounted on a young Dutch mare, which he had purchased the evening before, and led us off to the attack; but, the animal proving skittish, owing to the tread of the soldiers behind, he was soon under the necessity of dismounting, lest he should be precipitated head foremost into a ditch, and he continued the march on foot.

On nearing the signal-post, we observed it to be in a manner fortified by a banquette of sand thrown up, and a strong palisade surrounding it. Our light company now advanced in extended order through a wood at the foot of the hills, and we heard the enemy's advance open a heavy fire upon them, but these dashing young dogs brushing up to them soon made them retire. In the mean time our regiment had formed a close column of companies, and, advancing in quick time through the wood, saw our light company,

headed by Captain Hay, driving the enemy up the hills towards their post. Their musket-balls now whizzed past our heads, and we hastened on as quickly as possible, with the intention of cutting off their retreat.

Two or three of our light company passed us, wounded, and we came up to one of them who had just been killed, lying with his face to the ground in the attitude in which he had fallen. Every eye was upon him, but our commanding officer hurrying us past, not a syllable was uttered.

The commandant of this post, perceiving our intention of cutting him off from Flushing, immediately commenced a rapid retreat; and Captain Hay, with his light bobs, soon entering and pulling down the flying signal, immediately followed them up. A beautiful running fight was now carried on along the sand-hills, for three or four hours, but the enemy were too quick to be overtaken by our light infantry, who kept fagging after them up to their knees in loose sand, with all the

desire to catch them which a dolphin evinces when in pursuit of a flying fish ; the regiment marching after them to give their support.

We passed through a small village called Loute Candi, the inhabitants of which stared with astonishment at the regular and orderly manner in which we marched, not one of our soldiers attempting to leave the ranks to commit depredations, although the Dutch at this time were our enemies. Never were a finer set of young fellows than we had with us ; and during this whole campaign, not an article belonging to the inhabitants was touched by them without paying for it. Can the *élite* of Napoleon's army say as much ?

The 5th and 35th Regiments were brigaded with us. We now came upon a strong battery erected against the sea, which turned its guns upon us ; but no hesitation was visible amongst the ranks. On we pushed, and, in ten minutes, were in possession of this work, called Dishock, and found it to contain

six guns and two mortars. The garrison made their escape with considerable difficulty; and, leaving a serjeant's party in charge of it, we immediately rattled after them, dashing over sand-hill after sand-hill in pursuit. Nothing could exceed the gallantry of our troops on this day.

The steeples of the town of Flushing were now in sight, and soon afterwards the line of regular fortifications became plainly visible. We approached the Nolle, which was the position occupied by us during the siege, being on the right of our line of attack. Our regiment had now to mount the sand-hills in order to make room for the 35th to advance parallel with us on the road immediately below it.

On descending the sand-hills, which terminated on the dyke called the Nolle, fortunately for me, I turned round to look at my company, which was following me by sections, and, while in this attitude, a round shot from the enemy passed so near me as to carry off



my plaid cloak which was rolled on my back, and to my astonishment I saw it flying like ribbons in the air. The file of men immediately following me uttered a most dismal death-scream and fell lifeless on the sand, the ball having passed through the breast of one and stomach of the other. My astonishment at the noise it made in passing was so great that for a few moments I could not utter a word, and whether it was fear or surprise which struck me dumb I cannot tell. My readers may determine as they please, and I shall excuse myself by a sensible reprimand given by the brave French Marshal Lannes to a colonel commanding a regiment, who had punished a young officer for a "*moment de peur*."—"That man," said he, "is worse than a poltroon who pretends he never felt fear." On recovering my breath, I exclaimed, "On boys! and revenge!"

The whole line of batteries along the works of Flushing now opened on the English forces, which were visibly approaching in all direc-

tions; and our regiment, taking possession of the Nolle, kept this embankment between us and the town. But we found that even under this shelter we were not protected from their shot, as their advanced troops were in possession of a wood to our left, which completely enfiladed our position, and the light company, with Capt. Rowan's and Capt. Torrens's, were sent to clear it, which they soon accomplished.

Whilst seated under cover of the Nolle, or bank, which was now between us and the town, a most extraordinary musket-shot, dropping perpendicularly from the heavens, fell upon the face of one of my men near to me; he immediately sank forward as if dead, but a rush of blood from his nose soon brought him to life again, and I sent him off to the surgeon, who had taken up his station near to us. This ball must have been fired by mere accident; and it is more than probable that it was projected unexpectedly, nearly straight up into the air, but with declivity

enough to throw it forward in its descent, when it flattened my poor fellow's nose. Had it been General S——'s what might not have been the consequences ?

Shortly after sunset the night came on, and my company, with two others, were ordered on piquet. I took up my station at the extreme end of the Nolle, or dyke, from which the sand-hills ran to the works of the town ; and I was informed that two of our companies were on the flat below me, and to my left, which nearly joined the piquets of the 35th Regiment.

After surveying my ground as well as I could in the dark, I posted an advanced party a few yards in front, giving them strict orders not to fire unless the enemy advanced to attack them. But, notwithstanding our tranquillity, the whole night, and all the next day, did these fools keep up an incessant fire upon us, without hitting more than one or two of my men, so well were we protected by the irregularities of the ground. The night set

in cold ; the heat and fatigue of the day rendered me more sensible to its effects, and I felt severely the loss of my plaid cloak. Every movement I made to keep myself warm was sure to bring on a dozen shots from the enemy.

I thought then, what I afterwards found verified by experience during the Peninsular war, that young soldiers will frequently fire at their own shadows ; and these piquets of the enemy, the whole of the next day, kept up such a continual blazing upon us, that my men, in ridicule of their folly, would sometimes hoist a cap on the end of a bayonet, on purpose to see how many shots it would draw from them ; whilst two or three of my best marksmen would watch their opportunity, and bring down as many of their enemies who were silly enough to expose themselves.

## CHAPTER XVI.

Answer to a Youngster's Advice—Line of Operations—Mess-dinner—Captain Torrens—Sleeping Quarters—Comfortable Birth in a Pig-sty—Mosquitoes—Retreat to the Sty—The Commander-in-Chief—A Sortie—Encounter with a French Colonel—Defeat of the Enemy—Visit to the wounded French Colonel—Thanks to the Troops for their Conduct in the Action—Report of General Brownrigg—The Fleet sails up the Scheldt, in spite of the Batteries—Seamen's Battery—Proceedings of the Tars—Jack and the Spent Ball.

EARLY in the morning of the 2d of August, Major-General Graham, accompanied by Colonel Hay, came up to reconnoitre from my post, and, putting their heads above the bank in front of us, began to observe Flushing. The enemy, within forty yards, immediately opened a hot fire at their cocked hats, when I, considering the loss that either of these brave commanders would occasion us, went up to them, and requested they would not expose themselves. General Graham, turning

round to me with a smile on his countenance, coolly replied, "Young man! mind your own business." I sneaked back to my place, sensible of my extreme officiousness in offering advice to two men of such experience and age.

Shortly after day-light this morning, the left wing of the Royal Regiment, which was under the Nolle during the night, retired to some farm-houses, about a mile or two in the rear; and two field-pieces, under Captain Webber Smith, of the Royal Artillery, advanced, and occupied its place. My situation being high, I now plainly distinguished our whole line of operations round the town, many of our piquets, from their exposure to the fire of the town, having already covered themselves by throwing up small trenches in the fields. Immediately under me were Captain Rowan's and Captain Wilson's grenadiers in a wood to their left. The other two companies were in reserve with the artillery, below the Nolle. The piquets of the 35th

Regiment communicated with our grenadiers, and their left again touched on the right of the advanced posts of the 5th Regiment. These three regiments composed the right brigade, under Colonel Hay. The other regiments, composing General Graham's division, completed the investment, the left consisting of the 71st Highlanders, resting on the Zuid Water above the town. The centre regiments of this division were commanded by Lord Paget.

This whole day did the enemy keep up an incessant fire on us, both with cannon from the works of the town and musketry; but, notwithstanding their spite, very few of our men were injured. As the evening drew on and the sun declined, the left wing advanced to relieve the right, and the light company took up the ground I occupied. The right wing now retired to the same farm-houses which the left wing had occupied during the day; and in this manner did we relieve each other day after day during the whole siege.

We now heard from our adjutant that our regiment had lost thirty non-commissioned officers and privates, killed and wounded in our advance of yesterday upon the town.

Our servants, who had fallen to work, immediately on our arrival, with every eatable article they could procure, now brought in a large camp-kettle filled up to the brim with an indescribable mess, which it would have puzzled even the great Dr. Kitchener to analyse. It contained fish, flesh, and fowl, with a medley of vegetables, collected from our farm-garden, mixed with various good English sauces, for our baggage had been landed and sent after us. It was neither soup, stew, nor hash, though partaking of all three; and the smell of it collected us like flies round a honey-pot.

The stomach of man is the mainspring of his system and existence; for if it be not sufficiently wound up to warm the heart and support the circulation, the whole duty of life will, in proportion to the feeding, be effectually



or ineffectually performed. A well-fed man will walk with vigour, think with precision, and fight with courage; he will then sit down with comfort and sleep with tranquillity. There would be no great difficulty in proving how much greater the influence of good living is on all our actions than people in general imagine; and even the destiny of nations has sometimes depended on the cook of the prime minister.

Those persons in whom the organ of taste is obtuse, or who have been brought up in the happy system of being content with humble fare; whose health is so good that their stomach needs no artificial adjustments from foreign cookery; who, with the appetite of a cormorant, have the digestion of an ostrich; they who can eagerly devour whatever is set before them, without being particular enough to ask the two common questions, "what is it?" or "how was it made?"—such people, with such stomachs, are alone fit for campaigning.

Our canteens had now been opened, and our appetites worked up to the last pitch of excitement, for nothing warm had yet passed our lips since leaving the *Revenge*; and my portion of cold salt beef had been demolished early in the morning, under the fire of the enemy, by myself and subalterns, whilst some of the other captains, who were not so careful as I was, had finished their stock the night before.

We all stood round the smoking camp-kettle, plate and spoon in hand, just like a flock of ravens watching a dying horse. Captain Torrens, a young Irishman, of great wit and humour, now chanted out:

The sweetest diversion that's under the sun,  
Is to sit by the fire till the praties are done.

He was the first person helped, the rest eagerly eyeing him, while each waited anxiously for his turn to arrive, and cast a longing look on the first large spoonful just entering his mouth. Scarcely had it passed his lips,

when, with one voice, we all exclaimed "Is it good?"

No sooner were these words uttered, than we saw, by the twisting of his jaws, that something was wrong. He grew red in the face; his teeth chattered; tears trickled from his eyes; and, opening his mouth, he discharged the contents on the floor, exclaiming: "Och, musha, musha! it's like lava from Mount Etna!" A loud laugh from us all had scarcely ceased, when we heard him abusing his servant for not telling him it was hot; at the same time declaring it had not left a bit of skin in his mouth. "I suppose you are hungry, you son of a gun," continued he; "and I have a great mind to pour it down your throat." The rogue grinned, as if he wished to begin the experiment. This dish, though now an enigma to us all, from not being versed in campaigning gastronomy, we found a year or two afterwards to resemble much a celebrated Spanish stew called "olla podrida."

By this time, our hunger getting the better of our mirth, we forgot the Dutch rule of politeness, which says, *Opent der mund niet te wyt als gy eet*; which is in our own language, "Open not your mouth too wide when ye eat;" for we were now like young sparrows, gaping for our food, which we found too hot to swallow. Some were blowing; others, who fortunately had their throats paved with stones, contrived to gulp it down by spoonfuls; but not one of us was able as yet to taste it, nor did we decide upon its goodness until the second helping, when, calling for some capital Schiedam, we proposed the health of our two flank captains, Wilson and Hay.

As each mouthful of this good liquor went down, it seemed to have a wonderful effect upon the talking valve of us all; and a stunning noise about our own valour, with the hairbreadth escapes we had experienced, would have deafened the most clamorous boarding-school boys in England.

All-powerful nature at last inclined us to rest, after two days and three nights harassing fatigue; and we rose to seek places to lay our weary frames upon. We soon found in the house six births, or bed places, which the farmers of this country sleep in, no bedsteads being used. The room in which we sat contained four, the kitchen two; round the wainscot were sliding doors, which hid these beds from view. We soon decided that the highest rank should be the first served, or rather that "age before honesty" should have the choice of the most comfortable places.

I must here mention that, for a distance of three or four miles round Flushing, all the farmers, with their families, had evacuated their dwellings, and retired for safety further back in the island, leaving us masters of their empty houses.

It was my lot to obtain a good birth in the sitting room, and, whilst taking off my coat and regimental boots, which had quite lost their polish, and cost me a world of pulling

and tugging, my lieutenant, Brick, came to report to me his having found a comfortable sleeping place in a pig-sty, into which he had put some clean straw for himself and Ensign Lane. For some time I was kept awake with laughter, at the idea of two young gentlemen so easily reconciling themselves to such a place; but, as our sailors say, "any port in a storm." On the same principle, a pig-sty was better than the open air.

I soon fell into a sound sleep on a very comfortable mattress; how long it had lasted I know not, but believe it might be an hour or two, when I was roused by the noise and bites of millions of mosquitoes. On first opening my eyes, I fancied myself back again in Demerara; but to my cost I soon found that even there I never met with such a set of determined tormentors. It is said that "monks and mosquitoes are to be found all the world over," and it is curious that where monks are mosquitoes are not.

Many of the other officers, some sleeping

on the table, some on the floor, others in births, were all with one accord sending these plagues to the devil, whilst the slaps I heard repeatedly given on their faces reminded me of those which used to resound in Mr. Laing's school, in Edinburgh. At length, Torrens, putting forth his head from his birth, exclaimed in a piteous voice, "Och, hone! the dirty heathen brutes! I never felt them bite so hard; though, in the West Indies, I have seen them carry off a quart of blood, for they are as big as sparrows." A laugh in the midst of our torments was the result, and, finding it impossible to protect myself from their attacks, I bolted from my bed to the yard, determined to try the pig-sty, into which I crept on my hands and knees; and, stretching myself between my subalterns on clean straw, in spite of the scent of the walls, perfumed with otto of pigs, we soon made a trio with our noses, that a bystander would have supposed to proceed from its former inhabitants.

On the 3d of August, there was much firing on both sides, during the whole of this day, in the advanced posts; and our right wing was marched to the sea-beach, where we all stripped and bathed. In the afternoon, just as the sun declined, we again marched to the advanced posts, and relieved the left wing. The enemy still continued firing at every man they saw; and orders were given to sicken them of annoying us by returning shot for shot. This, at last, had a good effect, as, during the next day, they left us in tranquillity. On the 5th and 6th, no firing took place on either side, although our engineers had nearly prepared some strong batteries along our lines against the town and works.

It is a curious fact that, during this siege and employment on this service, I never once saw our commander-in-chief, the Earl of Chatham, nearer to me than seated on the top of the church steeple, at Middelburg, five miles distant, in the centre of the island, surrounded with his staff. At twelve o'clock



every day, we used to see the red coats appear on a high parapet, whence they could overlook our proceedings below them.

One day I heard a dry remark made by one of our soldiers to his comrade. "Oh," said he, "look at the general, like a flamingo, on the top of the church; he, good man, leaves the business to the line; the line gives it up to the staff; the staff to the artillery; the artillery to the engineers; and the engineers to God Almighty."

One of the batteries, just mentioned, was to the right of a road leading into Flushing, and nearly in the field in which our regiment had two companies. On the evening of the 6th of August, my company was sent into this field on duty, as an advanced piquet. There we lay during the night without speaking a word, and the enemy, though close to us, remained perfectly quiet. How true is the old saying, that "After a calm comes a storm."

The next morning, Sunday the 7th of Au-

gust, the beating of a French drum attracted my attention, and, as the gloom of night was clearing away sufficiently for my sight to dive into the darkness, I distinguished a column of the enemy formed close under their works, and on the high road in front of us. I immediately sent off one of my men to inform Major Gordon, who commanded our piquets, of this circumstance; but he had scarcely left me, when down came this column in a rush along the road; and, ordering all my men to lie down out of the enemies' sight, they darted past us like a flock of ravens, calling out to each other, *En avant! en avant!*

A broad ditch, or trench, running along the road, now separated them from me; and, seeing that they were soon checked in their advance by the piquets of the 35th and 5th regiments, and by my own corps, more particularly the light company, which made a brilliant charge upon them, I determined to cut off the retreat of some, and dashed forward to gain the road with my company. The

trench appeared to be deep; but in we all jumped, and I was just scrambling up the opposite side, when a little elderly French officer ran at me with great gallantry, and made a lunge with his sword directly at my breast. I was at the moment in an awkward situation to defend myself, my right leg being out of the trench, and consequently covering my stomach, most fortunately for me. I struck down the point of his weapon from my heart, and I felt it enter the calf of my leg. By this time three or four of my men had mounted from the ditch, and the one nearest to me, running at this little Frenchman, thrust his bayonet directly through his jowl. His weapon dropped from his hand, and he stood on tiptoe, with open mouth, the very picture of a spiked frog.

The piquets of the 35th, with the advanced companies of the Royal Regiment, now advanced along the road, and we managed to make upwards of two hundred prisoners; our light company, which had been moved up

from the rear, making a most brilliant charge upon them just as the enemy began to form line.

I now found that the little wasp which had so nearly run me through the body was the colonel commanding this sortie; and two or three days afterwards I went to see him in our hospital, a farm-house in the rear. On beholding me, he could not help showing his anger; but I heeded it not, and, taking him by the hand, inquired if I could be of any service to him. *Non, Monsieur*, was his only reply. At length, with laughing and good-humour, the poor little fellow got into better temper with his misfortunes, which I improved, by informing him that he would find England a delightful country, filled with beautiful girls, "and," continued I, "it is the *fortune de la guerre* which carries you thither, and they always love the brave." These little compliments pleased him; for the French are not deficient in vanity; and on leaving him he shook me cordially by the hand.

The amount of the enemy's loss on the morning of the 7th of August was seven officers and two hundred men, prisoners, with a considerable number wounded, who got back to the town, and many killed, whose bodies lay on the field of action.

An order arrived conveying the thanks and approbation of the Commander of the forces to Colonel Hay and Major Gordon of the Royal Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt and Major Ennis of the 5th regiment, for their exertions and distinguished conduct, and for the well-timed and rapid charge made by Captain Hay of the Royals with the light company, at the moment of the enemy's deployment, to which the success on this occasion is to be principally ascribed.

The Quarter-Master-General Brownrigg, in his journal of the proceedings of the army in the expedition to the Scheldt, laid before Parliament, thus speaks of our conduct: "The enemy's principal effort was directed against the small wood on the left of our advanced

piquet on the dyke, and their left column advanced towards that point in a heavy mass, attempting to deploy, while they entered a small meadow, which lies between the two woods; here they were received with a most destructive fire by the Royals, posted on the dyke, and were gallantly charged by the light company of that regiment. The two six-pounders under Captain Webber Smith, Royal Artillery, one of which was advanced as far as the epaulement near the wood, completed the front of this column by some well-directed rounds of spherical case-shot; and they fell back, having sustained a very considerable loss."

On the morning of the 10th of July, ten of our frigates stood into the river Scheldt, and, to our astonishment, neared the guns of Flushing. All of us, anxious for the result, stood up to watch the effect of their temerity. The wind was favourable for them, and, with all sail set, they stood on in what we military call Indian file, that is, one following the

other, the leading ship having the admiral's flag flying from her mast-head. As soon as she had approached within range of the battery on the works towards the river, every piece was discharged at her. Still she majestically pursued her course, till, coming near enough to be certain of the effect of her guns, she opened a broadside, which at once cleared the enemy's battery.

All we soldiers, both friends and foes, were now standing up, regardless of one another, watching with anxiety the result of this attempt; and we saw each frigate, on passing, throw her broadside into the batteries on shore. This I afterwards heard had been done by the Admiral of the fleet, Sir Richard Strachan, to convince our Commander-in-chief, Lord Chatham, how easy it was for the British fleet to pass up the river Scheldt; but the result unfortunately produced no benefit whatever, for we were kept working against the fortifications of Flushing when we ought to have been at Antwerp.

A battery manned by seamen had by this time opened near us against the town, and, notwithstanding the fire that was kept up against us from the works, a jack tar was seated on the rampart watching every shot thrown by his comrades among the houses. If he thought it good and well thrown, he immediately struck up, on a fiddle, some merry air, and a general cheer followed. Nothing could be so amusing as to see these fellows at work; and so rapid was their firing, that I believe they beat all our other batteries in the proportion of three to one: but, as to utility, perhaps the same odds was in favour of our artillery. The steeple of the church seemed to be their object, and, whenever this was struck, the fiddler played their favourite air of "Rule Britannia," amidst vociferated cheers.

A captain of the navy one morning passed along our line of attack, attended by a stout, handsome young tar, one of his gig-men, as an orderly. I was on duty in the trenches, and these two gallant fellows were walking



along the field in our rear, and not far from our trenches, when the French, who had seen them from the works of the town, immediately levelled a piece and threw a shot at them, which hit the ground a field or two off in our front, and came ricocheting along its surface: it hopped over our heads in the trench, and continued running along the ground. Jack, on seeing it, without saying a word, took his hat in his hand, and, with a hop, skip, and jump, placed his right leg immediately in its front to stop it. Most fortunately for him, something turned it at the moment, and it ran between his legs without touching either, for the force of a spent ball would have broken his bones to atoms. The fearless fellow gave a spring in the air, and d——d the ball for passing him.

## CHAPTER XVII.

Advance of the Troops upon Flushing—Awful Thunder-storm—Politeness of French Sentinels—Imprudent Boldness of the Author—Surrender of Flushing—The Enemy march out as Prisoners of War—The Tambour-Major—The Irish Brigade—Difference in Appearance between the French and English Troops—Loss of the Royals during the Siege—Appearance of the Town—The Author's Quarters—The Dutch Language—Meeting and Conversation of Two Dutchwomen—A Walk through the Town—Damage sustained by it—Order for Embarkation—Rockets—Important Services rendered by them on various Occasions.

ON the 13th of August, at 2 P.M., the cannonading commenced from all the batteries on our position round the town. That nearest to us opened fifteen twenty-four pounders and six mortars.

In the evening it was planned to drive in the enemy's piquets in our front and to approach the town. The whole had been arranged in the morning, and the light company,

under Captain Hay, supported by Captain Rowan's and Captain St. Clair's companies, were ordered to take up our position at the extreme end of the Nolle, ready to advance.

At six in the evening, the rockets commenced playing against the town. This was the signal for our advance, and the illumination from these monstrous fireworks was so great, that every step before us was as clearly visible as in daylight. The light company rushed forward, and Rowan's and my company after them. The enemy, who had observed us strengthening our advanced post, had not been idle in making preparations to oppose us ; but all was in vain : they could not resist the rush made upon them by three fine companies, led on by three youthful captains, full of vigour and athirst for glory.

During our advance, I saw poor Lieutenant M'Lean, of Captain Rowan's company, fall to rise no more ; and, shortly afterwards, overtook Lieutenant M'Kenzie of the light company lying wounded. The enemy, on our

approach, gave way ; and we followed them up so closely that I am almost certain, had we had a sufficient number of men with us, we might have forced ourselves with them into the town, such was their confusion on arriving at the sallyport, by which they saved themselves.

Lieutenant Jackson, a gallant little fellow of our light company, made a dash at a field-piece, which he captured, though he received a wound in the struggle.

We now stopped at a paling, a short distance from the sallyport gate, within which, and outside the walls of the town, stood a battery of three guns, facing the sea. My company was now left on piquet here, and the other two were removed to my left. I observed several houses burning in the town, from the effects of our rockets, and saw the roof of the town-house fall in immediately before me.

A most tremendous thunder-storm at this moment passed over our heads, as if the gods

were laughing at our paltry artillery. Never before or since have I heard such repeated, loud, and awful peals. The dense clouds seemed to touch our heads in their anger, and torrents of rain fell from them. I looked round for a shelter for my men, and, seeing a large carpenter's shed close by, desired them to get under it and lie down upon their arms, to prevent their attracting the lightning, which was flashing ready to blind us. It was really too severe a trial for a young soldier to be thus situated in an awful storm, separated from his enemies only by a paling: however, I carefully posted my sentinels to prevent their surprising us. In about an hour the storm cleared away; and, the evening again becoming cheerful, I began to look about me. Upon the battery which faced the sea were two French sentinels, and on the sallyport bridge were two more. I entered into conversation with those on the battery, who seemed to me to be intelligent and sensible fellows.

I was left all night on this post, and the next morning heard that a flag of truce had been sent into the town from our commandant. The terms were not accepted, and the same terrific bombardment was again commenced by us.

Being at this time young and foolish, I walked up, during the cessation of hostilities, to the sentry posted on the battery, and asked him if he had heard of an English officer being then in Flushing treating for a surrender, to which he replied, at the same time striking the butt of his musket with his right hand, "*Oui, monsieur ;*" and, taking advantage of his politeness, I asked him to let me walk towards the sallyport. He willingly consented: as I advanced, the two sentries posted on the bridge also carried arms, and on my asking permission, answered "*Passez, monsieur.*" I thought it strange that, being an enemy on the outside, I should be permitted to pass within the walls; but, thinking it better not to run any more risk of being

kept a prisoner, I returned to my company, making a low bow to the four sentries I had before passed, and receiving from them a smart slap of the hand on their muskets. I had just gone far enough to see within the walls, and I have often since thought of my imprudence in thus satisfying my feelings of curiosity. What might not have been the consequence to me had I been detained by any of these men! My honour, and the love I bear my country, might have been suspected, and, had I been led out and shot as a deserter, at the head of my regiment, I should have felt that I merited my fate; but Fortune always smiled upon me, more kindly, perhaps, than I have deserved.

The Quarter-Master-General Brownrigg thus mentions this attack, made by the Royal Regiment, to drive the enemy from their advanced posts.

“The 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment advanced along the sand-hills, and the Light Company of that battalion, under Captain

Hay, charged the enemy most gallantly. Very little resistance was made, and the enemy retired into the suburbs of the town, to which they set fire. They had with them two small field-pieces, one of which was taken in a most gallant manner, by Lieutenant Jackson, of the Light Company, and thirty men of the Royals."

On Tuesday, the 15th of August, all firing ceased on both sides, in consequence of the arrival of a flag of truce from General Monnet, the French commandant, surrendering the garrison prisoners of war. On the 17th, every thing relative to this business being settled, our two flank companies advanced, and took possession of the principal gate of the town, which was delivered up to them; and it was arranged that, at eight o'clock, on the morning of the 19th, the garrison should march out of the fortress, ground their arms, and deliver themselves prisoners of war. We were early on foot this morning, brushing our clothes and polishing our Hessian



boots, preparatory to entering the town ; and, at the above-mentioned hour, all our troops in General Graham's division were drawn up on the high road leading to Middelburg. The right of our regiment rested on the gateway or entrance to Flushing, and on our left the 14th Regiment were drawn up in line : these two corps were intended to enter and take possession of the town. A fine band of the enemy's now struck our attention as they approached the gateway, and their pioneers appeared issuing from the drawbridge. We were called to attention, whilst the gratifying sight presented by 6,000 of our captured enemies passed before us. First came the pioneers, with long beards nearly down to their waists, their upper lips covered with enormous moustaches, and black leather aprons turned up at one corner. This party were composed of very fine-looking men, armed and accoutred with all kinds of working tools. Next came an individual more like Tom Fool than any thing I can think of : he had on his head a

tremendously high cocked hat, with a gold loop big enough for six hats ; yellow feathers bound it, and three handsome ostrich plumes waved high above him at every step he took ; his coat was green ; his sleeves and breast covered with gold lace. Two enormous gold epaulettes covered his shoulders ; and a pair of tight yellow inexpressibles, richly worked with gold, ended in a pair of Hessian boots, with gold tassels. Over his shoulder hung a broad gold belt, in which was stuck a pair of ornamented drumsticks ; and he carried in his hand a long black stick, richly mounted in gold. The pride with which this fellow strutted past us well nigh killed us all with laughter. Every now and then he threw his stick high in air, and smartly caught it again as it fell ; sometimes turning round and beating time for the drummers and band, at others advancing at the *pas*, like a proud and stately charger, lifting his feet high from the ground and putting them down again nearly in the same place. This was the drum-major

of the Irish brigade, followed by a good corps of brass drummers: and after them came the band of music, playing a sweet quick march, which was every now and then joined by a rattling peal on the drums. This part of the ceremony appeared to be under the orders of the tambour-major.

Next came, in due procession, General Monnet, commandant of the town, followed by the second in command, and five or six staff officers, all dressed in blue: and after them the colonel commandant of the Irish Brigade, with his adjutant, both of them stout-looking men, the colonel dressed in a plain green coat, with gilt buttons and yellow facing, and with a handsome French *chaco*. He was followed by his men in strong sections, flanked by their officers, all of whom wore the moustache. About three thousand passed us, divided into three battalions, with knapsacks, light and covered with hair. Their pantaloons were tight to the leg, and short white gaiters covered the feet. Some of the

officers in their movements appeared to imagine themselves at a dance, as they swung along on the light fantastic toe, with first the right shoulder forward, and then the left, with a short catch in their march, keeping time to the music. Immediately following these fine-looking troops came the Chasseurs, of about the same strength as those which had passed; but their uniform, although of the same make, was dull and heavy, being blue with black facings. Not one officer, not even the general himself, was mounted; and, as soon as their rear cleared the gates, they were halted, and formed into line three deep. This formation, as I afterwards found, was the general practice of the French army, whilst we continued at two deep; and Wellington afterwards proved to them that ours was the most convenient method, and consequently the best.

After grounding arms, they again formed sections to the right, and were marched off to Fort Haack, where they were immediately

shipped on board English vessels, and ultimately consigned to a miserable prison. A number of the first band of music which passed us, having engaged themselves to the Duke of Kent's band, were permitted to join our regiment, and afterwards sent home to Kensington.

I could not help observing the difference between their troops and ours, for certainly they had by far the most military appearance, looking like men, with their moustaches and cropped heads, while we, with our smooth chins and abominable queues, were more like the white-faced monkey.

By the adjutant's return, I found that the loss of our battalion of the Royal Regiment, during the siege of Flushing, consisted of Lieutenant Donald M'Lean, one drummer, and eight rank and file, killed; Captain Wilson, Grenadier Company, Lieutenants Jackson and M'Kenzie, of the Light Company, seven serjeants, eighty-one rank and file, wounded; and six rank and file missing.—

Total killed, ten ; total wounded and missing, ninety-seven.

Orders were now issued for the 3d Battalion Royal Regiment, and the 14th, to break into open column, and we led in to take possession of the town ; but, though we had laughed at the swing with which some of the French officers had passed us, we could not help in some measure imitating them, when we marched up the streets as conquerors. Many of the windows we found closed up, to protect the inhabitants from our shot ; but, now and then, we had a glimpse of a pretty young female face, staring through one which had not been so secured. We were halted in the principal place or square, where billets were given to us ; mine was in a narrow street, close upon the ramparts, at the shop of a baker and pastrycook ; the owner of which showed me into a small apartment, containing a comfortable bed, with a window on a level with and looking into the street, having a green blind nearly half way up like our Eng-

lish dining-rooms. My servant arrived shortly after me with my portmanteau, and I now gave him out a pair of boots, upon which I ordered an extra polish; and likewise desired him to clean my sword and belt, and to brush my cocked hat, for all these articles had grown old and rusty during the twenty days we had been exposed to the weather in the open air, and the mud and water in the trenches. Taking out a new regimental coat also, I was determined to astonish the Dutch damsels with my splendour. I had now once again the comfort of a roof over my head, and so much does every thing go by comparison with us soldiers, that though my room was not large enough to swing a cat in, yet, after what I had just gone through, I thought it a perfect paradise. The poor owners strove to render me happy by every attention in their power; and, although our language differed, we were all equally amused by our mutual anxiety to make ourselves understood. There certainly is nothing sweet or harmonious in

the Dutch language, which I now found somewhat to resemble the gabble of a turkey-cock.

After a thorough cleaning from head to foot, I seated myself near the window to take my breakfast, during which I was amused beyond measure by two poor old Dutchwomen, who appeared to have just emerged from some such hiding-place as a coal-cellar, for both of them were filthily dirty. Their first movement was to embrace each other, and burst out into an exclamation of "Oh, mein Gott! mein Gott!" Seated behind my blind, I understood from their action almost every word that they said to each other. One of them, short and fat, was describing the perils and hazards to which she had been exposed during the siege, balls and rockets flying in all directions; and, clapping her hand on a certain part of her body, she showed how she had been knocked down by a spent cannon-shot of tremendous size, and then, limping up to her companion, she immediately pulled up her petticoats to show her the effects of the blow.



The poor woman certainly had received an awkward thump, her whole thigh being as black as my hat; but, in the midst of my gaping curiosity to see the sight, I was surprised by a titter immediately over my shoulder, and, starting up, beheld my servant, Scott, staring with all his eyes, and highly entertained with what he saw, pouring the hot water over a clean white tablecloth instead of putting it into the tea-pot. "You stupid dog," said I, "don't spoil the landlady's linen!" but I could not help joining him in a hearty laugh at what the Dutch-woman had just shown us.

After comforting my stomach, which, as I have already observed, is a most essential point with us English soldiers, out I sallied into the principal place or square in this clean town, where, meeting several of my brother officers, we proposed walking round the ramparts to observe what damage our shot had done. Some few of the shops were now opening, and we saw a few pretty females, with

coloured handkerchiefs tied round their heads, laying out their finery to the best advantage in the windows. To some we smiled, to some bowed, and to some kissed hands; and politeness was thus soon established between us.

We found the ramparts perfect and uninjured, the buildings in the town alone having suffered. The town-hall and the church were the most damaged, and many of the private houses had also been set on fire by the rockets. The sea face was also injured in some places by the fire from our frigates, but nothing like a breach on the land side had been made, or even attempted by us; therefore it must be supposed that General Monnet might have weighty reasons for surrendering before he was actually forced to do so. The dock-yard, containing many fine vessels on the stocks, was unharmed.

The next morning, orders arrived for the immediate embarkation of our regiment. We were alive again at the idea of meeting our foes once more; for our campaigning ardour

had not yet received a sickener. Most of this day was spent on the *pavé* of the town, and flirting with numerous pretty damsels, who appeared not to dislike the change from blue to red, and were as merry with us as they had no doubt been with our predecessors.

I must here mention that I now for the first time saw two or three carcasses of the rockets used by us to fire the town, into which they were thrown at a great elevation. They were of enormous size, crammed full of powder, and, being ignited at the lower end, were projected through the air with dreadful rapidity. Such of them as fell on wood, or the roofs of houses, were certain to set them on fire. These infernal machines caused the conflagration of several buildings, and proved very destructive to the town. It was upon these that General Congreve of the Artillery improved in his lighter rockets, headed some with shells, others with spears. In 1813, a rocket company, under an officer of our Royal Artillery, being well trained in the art of

throwing them, were sent to join the allied army in Germany, and proved equally useful in the field against some heavy French columns of infantry and cavalry in the battle of Leipsic, by striking terror and dismay into the ranks of the enemy. In January, 1814, also, when serving with the Duke of Wellington's army, in crossing the river Adour, I saw a troop sent over to stop the advance of a heavy French column, which had been dispatched down the right bank of the river from Bayonne, to intercept our passage. After the first discharge of these new weapons of destruction, the column halted; one of them spitted three men, and the remainder, taking to their heels, never stopped until they gained the town, reporting that we had a new-invented *machine infernale* to destroy them with.

The horrid noise which these rockets make in winging their course through the air must be sufficient to throw a cavalry column into the greatest confusion.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

Embarkation of the Troops—Meeting with a Schoolfellow—  
Effects of Drinking—The Fleet ascends the Scheldt—Dan-  
gerous Situation of the Carron Brig—View of Antwerp—  
Quarters at West Capell—Duck Shooting—Comparison be-  
tween the Females of England and those of the Continent  
—Recall of the Earl of Chatham, and Investigation—Sir  
George Don's Plan of Defence—Ludicrous Sham Fight—  
Invitation from the Earl of Dalhousie—Dutch Waggon—  
Duties with Lord Dalhousie—Town of Middelburg—Mor-  
tality among the Troops—Destruction of the Dockyard of  
Flushing—Evacuation of Walcheren—Lord Dalhousie's  
Residence near Hastings—Conclusion.

ON the 21st of August we marched to a place at a short distance from the town, called Ramakin, where Captain Rowan's and my company embarked on board the Carron transport, and were doomed to lie four days at anchor in this miserable collier brig, which hardly allowed space sufficient to move on her crowded deck. We found a wonderful

difference in point of comfort between this vessel and the *Revenge*. Only half of our officers and men could be permitted to go below at the same time, as there was not space sufficient to breathe in.

One morning, whilst pacing the deck of our miserable brig, I observed another equally uncomfortable-looking transport lying close to us, with some cavalry on board. A young man in the uniform of the 12th Light Dragoons, who was walking his own deck, now struck me as bearing a strong resemblance to an old and dearly esteemed friend and schoolfellow. It was he himself, and I immediately hailed him. My call attracted his attention, and in a few moments he inquired, "Who the devil are you?" in answer to which I mentioned my name. In an instant his boat was pulled up alongside, and almost as quick as thought I saw him on our deck; we flew into each other's arms, and both our hearts melted at again beholding each other. It was five years since we had separated in Edinburgh;

our boyish love and esteem for each other still continued; and now, as captains in the army, we could not have received greater pleasure than in this accidental meeting on service.

To my horror and sincere regret, however, I soon discovered that my friend had given way to what was then called in the army, "the go," that is, drinking; and even at this hour in the morning he was intoxicated. I pitied him from my heart for having fallen into the hands of his major, who had led him into this vice, and finally almost to utter destruction. I gave him the best advice I could at the moment think of; but it had no weight against the pleasures of the drop. I met him afterwards sometimes in the Peninsular war, but always intoxicated. His constitution, having never been strong, at last became broken and debilitated: he was obliged to sell out his majority years before his natural time for work was past. I wished that I could have persuaded him to make that merry de-

claration of Slender's in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*: "I'll ne'er be drunk whilst I live again, but in honest, civil, godly company, for this trick. If I be drunk, I'll be drunk with them that have the fear of God, and not with drunken knaves;" for here was a fine young fellow lost to himself and his country by drink.

On the twenty-fifth of August, all our vessels got under weigh, and we stood up the Scheldt river to the Island of Batz, under cover of which we came to anchor. Nothing could be finer than the sight of our armament, and the quantity of shipping on board which we were embarked, with a number of our beautiful ships of war lying at anchor ahead of us. The weather was delightful, and we plainly distinguished the opposite or left bank of this fine river, which was still in possession of the enemy, who showed themselves in numbers as we passed up, and now and then tried a long shot at us from some of their batteries.

Our cavalry and light troops, under the



command of Lieutenant-General the Earl of Rosslyn, consisting of Major-General Linsingen's Brigade of three squadrons of the 3d, three squadrons of the 12th Light Dragoons, two squadrons of the 2d Hussars, King's German Legion, and Major-General Stewart's Brigade of the 43d, 52d, and 95th Rifles, were in possession of the Island of Batz, which was kept as an advanced post up the Scheldt.

I believe it was through the stupidity of our captain, who dropped the anchor so near the left bank, that we found ourselves, as the tide got low, left high and dry on the beach or bed of the river. Captain Rowan instantly gave orders for a certain number of our men to jump out of the Carron brig, and throw up a bank with the entrenching tools which we had on board, so as to cover her deck, which was now lying exposed to the enemy, had they chosen to come down and attack us; we were, however, not molested by them; and, as the tide again flowed, we floated off to a safer situation.

From our anchoring ground, we could see the steeple and other high buildings in the town of Antwerp; but the time was now lost for capturing it, Napoleon, with his usual quickness at thwarting an enemy's intention, having instantly, on hearing of our arrival at Walcheren, sent off his chief engineer, Carnot, to strengthen Antwerp, seeing that this place was our object; and, by our delay at the siege of Flushing, we had foolishly given time to the enemy to throw in a strong garrison, and to render the fortifications formidable. The consequence was, that we were not even landed, but sent down again to Flushing, with a number of our men and officers daily falling ill of the Walcheren fever. In the month of September, we had 18,344 individuals in our army suffering with this severe malady.

We had now a good view of the crowd of shipping lying in the basins of Antwerp, with the tri-coloured flag flying from each of them; and I also saw the boom chained across the

river to prevent our passing up to them. Two strong batteries defended this chain. Had Sir Richard Strachan's advice been listened to, by pushing up the river at first, instead of landing at Walcheren, we must then, in all probability, have succeeded in capturing that important town and every thing in it; as, at that moment, I verily believe there was hardly a regular soldier within its works, and the *garde nationale* were doing the duties.

In this case, however, Fortune decided in favour of the *grand Empereur*; and our army, with the seeds of death and disease disseminated among us, returned to the island of Walcheren, where we were doomed to be one of the corps left to keep possession.

After landing, we were sent to country quarters in the village of West Capell. Our soldiers were put into a large dry church, and the officers billeted on the farmers living in the town. Many of our finest soldiers fell violently ill of that fatal malady. The officers were not such sufferers, for we all ate well and

drank well; and I believe that there is nothing more effectual than this regimen against such a complaint. I obtained an excellent apartment in the house of a civil old couple, who, like all the inhabitants in this country, lived and slept in the same room. They had two or three children and maid-servants, who crept into their respective births or sleeping-places, which I have already described, as soon as the usual hour arrived.

Amusement now occupied the place of duty; and, after a morning parade, shooting-parties were immediately arranged among us. Away we sallied through this watery country, but soon found it necessary to have a servant carrying a long pole, shod with a piece of flat iron, by means of which alone we could succeed in springing over the trenches. The ducks we met with astonished us by their numbers; they all got on the wing the moment they espied us; and we, taking them for wild fowl, began to shoot away as fast as we could load. At length a farmer came up

to us, and stated that nearly all the ducks which we had killed that morning, amounting to about seventy, were his property, excepting a few, which were wild ones, that came among them to breed. We were surprised at this intimation, but he satisfied us that he was right, on which we desired him to put a price on each duck, and we agreed to pay a guilder or nine-pence to the owner of every one we should kill afterwards. With this promise the people were highly pleased, and they would frequently point out to us the trench in which the birds were.

Our paymaster, Captain Robinson, wishing to have a couple of friends with him for the sake of society, invited Captain Clayhill and myself to join him in a mess. For this purpose he offered us his house or billet, in which he had a comfortable sitting-room, and we three met daily at breakfast and dinner. Once a month he went to Middelburg, for money to pay the regiment, and generally brought with him some good wine or eatables

for our mess; and, on one occasion, on his return he amused us by relating a circumstance he had witnessed, which served to convince me that females do not entertain the same notions of modesty on this side of the water as on ours. I have since travelled through Portugal, Spain, and France, Holland, Germany, the Tyrol, Switzerland, and Italy, and in none of these countries have I met with the same delicacy in the fair sex as in our own happy England: though I have been told by Frenchmen that our ladies, possessing many good qualities in our opinion, sin against delicacy in as many instances as their continental sisters. This I deny, from the observations I have been enabled to make; or if our females are really so faulty as these foreigners assert, they certainly possess the art of concealing their failings from their own countrymen: and I am forced to conclude that such opinions have been formed from the conduct of persons of the very lowest class.

Lord Chatham was about this time recalled to England, where, on account of the failure of the grand object of the expedition, his conduct, as commander-in-chief, became the subject of investigation. This is a severe ordeal for a military man to go through; but it has often befallen our officers in the command of expeditions, in case of their miscarriage. Sir George Don arrived to take command of the troops, which were now quartered only on the Island of Walcheren. He soon arranged his plan of defence, in case of being attacked by a strong force of the enemy; and, a few days after his arrival, the troops were ordered to assemble with blank cartridge, to show us his arrangements. We were drawn up on the right, upon the dyke commanding the passage between Walcheren and Batz, in which a number of men-of-war's boats were stationed. "Now," said Sir George, to our commanding officer, "you see the enemy," pointing to our boats; "keep them off." The signal was given; the

boats pulled to shore ; and we commenced a hot fire of blank cartridge against them. Still they advanced in spite of all the noise we made, and in an instant had the bows of their boats on shore. “ D——n them ! keep them off ! ” cried Sir George : but the Jacks were not so easily stopped : for, with a hop, step, and jump, they were on us, embracing officers and men. A general laugh was the result, and the commander-in-chief kept riding along the ranks, calling out, “ Gentlemen, do your duty, keep off the enemy : ” but all was in vain, and the day was lost to us, for not one in our ranks felt it a reproach to be hugged by such jolly dogs. We were immediately sent back to our cantonments.

I now received a note from Major-General the Earl of Dalhousie, who was just appointed commandant in Flushing, intimating that if I felt inclined to go in and live with him, he should be glad to have me as an extra aid-de-camp. I was delighted at the invitation, from knowing his Lordship's kind



and winning qualities when in Scotland. Upon showing the letter to my commanding officer, he instantly gave me leave ; and, next morning, having resigned my company to my lieutenant, I started in a hired waggon for Flushing. The waggons used in this island are very lightly built, and drawn by a pair of stout horses, fat and plump. They are generally driven, when not heavily loaded, at a smart trot ; still, though some of them are good-looking animals, they are not fast in their paces.

They jolted me dreadfully over a bad road, but I reached the town in time for his Lordship's dinner ; here I was introduced to the aid-de-camp, Captain Cooper, now lieutenant-colonel and secretary to the ordnance.

My duties were extremely easy. His lordship mounted me, and our principal occupation was to accompany him in his walks and rides, to introduce visiters, to write notes, and the like. Nothing could be more agreeable than the life I now passed, with so

pleasing a man. We were, shortly after our arrival, joined by another extra, Lieutenant Hume, of the Rifles, King's German Legion, a very gentlemanly young officer.

Every day, after dinner, pipes and tobacco were put on the table. His lordship always smoked, and we, of course, followed his example. Now and then we rode to the headquarters in Middelburg; and in this town I was frequently struck with the abundance of splendid china, many pieces being of the rarest pattern, with superb jars and ornamental curiosities. I was informed that the Honourable Captain Paget purchased a complete dinner service for £100; but, as I had not such a sum in the world at this time, I was satisfied with buying four pretty little Dutch oil paintings, which cost me £5, and which I foolishly lost, after landing them in England, by the Canterbury custom-house. Some of the shop windows in this clean and handsome town were large and splendid, consisting of enormous panes of glass, many

of them having the lower and upper sash composed of a single pane; and these, being stained a delicate pink colour, threw a charming glow on the articles placed within them.

The market was excellently well supplied with every necessary; and some of the women looked singular in their odd costume. I made a sketch of a woman selling fish, which she carried about the streets in two baskets, hung on a cross-bar from her shoulders.

The town is large and open, having some good and regular streets, a handsome church or cathedral, with a fine town-house near it. The quays along the canals are broad and convenient; and, though this town is situated in the middle of the island, the largest merchant ships lie alongside them. Trade and commerce seem to be the life and soul of this country, and the Dutch are prudent, steady, and sensible people. All whom I have yet heard speaking of the sanguinary war carried on by Napoleon have expressed their wish that hostilities were ended, confessing them-

selves quite sick of the long and obstinate struggle, and the consequent stagnation of business.

From Middelburg to Flushing there ran three or four times a day a waggon to carry passengers. The distance was only five miles ; and this grotesque machine was drawn by a pair of extremely fat, good-looking horses. The entrance was in front, and the seats or benches were one behind the other.

About the month of November, many of our unfortunate officers and soldiers were brought in upon waggons, absolutely helpless from the fever and ague ; and, in such numbers did they arrive, that the poor wretches were lying in thousands along the streets, without the possibility of being taken under shelter, so full was every part of the town. Our fine little army was, by this time, entirely cut up ; the number who had died on this humid soil and been buried in it was immense. Those sent home, shaking and shivering with this cruel malady, were still more numerous ; and

so completely did it take hold of some constitutions, that I have seen individuals more than twenty years afterwards, who were still suffering from it.

At length, in December, orders arrived from England to evacuate the island, and Lord Dalhousie received positive instructions to see the Flushing dock-yards completely destroyed. Cruel as this order was for the inhabitants of Flushing, still his lordship was obliged to obey. Men were now set to work to destroy and break up the beds from which we had previously taken the ribs and hulls of ships that were left unfinished. These had been all taken to pieces and sent home to the English dock-yards. The buildings were emptied of every thing serviceable, and the remainder made a blaze for two or three days. Now came the worst of the business, which was the defacing of the basons at low tide, by cutting the upright strong piles driven in to support the quays and wharfs, and many streets built round them. Upon these were nailed strong

planks, which supported the earth behind them; and, on their being pulled down, the whole street above them gave way, and the foundation of a handsome row of good houses was injured. I never saw a man more angry with himself than his lordship for permitting this work to be carried on: he immediately gave orders to stop it, taking the risk of disobeying upon himself.

The Marlborough, 74 guns, commanded by Capt. (now Admiral Sir Graham Moore), brother to the late lamented General Sir John Moore, lay off Flushing, superintending the embarkation of the troops on board the different transports. In December, Lord Dalhousie was taken on board this fine ship.

Captain Cooper, myself, Lieutenant Hume, and Captain, now Sir James Hope, K.C.B. then of the 26th Regiment, and at present lieutenant-colonel in the Scotch Fusileer Guards, were all accommodated in the captain's cabin; and never did man make a voyage pleasanter to strangers than Captain

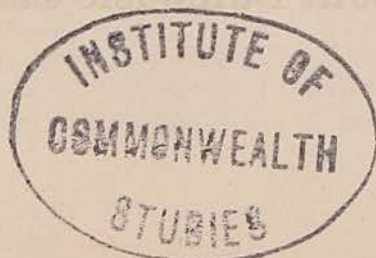
Moore made this to us. It quite delighted us to see his manner to his officers and crew, and the heartfelt kindness with which he treated his boyish midshipmen. He was beloved by all, and until now I knew not all the pleasures of being embarked in a man-of-war.

The signal was made for sailing, and in due time we again reached Dover; but how different were our feelings from those with which we left it five months before, full of spirits and full of hope; with such an army to back our expectations, but which was now returning a mere skeleton! Before disembarking, Lord Dalhousie invited his two extra aides-de-camp to accompany him to his house near Hastings, where Lady Dalhousie was awaiting his arrival. On reaching the hotel in Dover, we found his lordship's coach and four ready to receive him; and, stepping in, away we flew along the coast.

Lady Dalhousie was overjoyed at the arrival of her lord, and looked as well as when I had seen her last at Dalhousie Castle. I spent

a fortnight, enjoying the society of Lady Elizabeth Moncrief and her pretty daughter, sister and niece of the earl ; and, hearing that the 3d battalion of the Royal Regiment was again preparing for foreign service, I started to join them, after taking leave of my kind and noble hosts.

Thus ended an expedition worthy of a better fate. Ill luck followed us up till this period. The Duke of York had been unfortunate in Holland ; Sir John Moore in Spain ; and Lord Chatham in Walcheren. But we were now soon to be under the man upon whom Victory smiled, and whom Fortune took by the hand. Under his command I was yet to march through Portugal, Spain, and into France ; and, at the end of a long and bloody war, I was lucky in being one of those whom Providence permitted to return home to enjoy so many years of peace.







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THE END.



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