

on the strand, bathed in a mellow flood of moonlight. Applying his fingers to his mouth, he blew a shrill piercing whistle, which was almost instantaneously answered by the measured stroke of an oar, as his boat emerged from the shadow of the vessel.

Without waiting till the keel grated on the sand, he sprang through the surf, and bade the men back water.

"Give way starboard oars! ease larboard, give way all!" he shouted, and the light boat danced over the sparkling swell in the direction of the tiny vessel, now rapidly heading up on the starboard tack to the anchorage ground. In a very few minutes he stood on her deck confronting her commander, who was a tall, stout, manly looking mulatto. In answer to the numerous interrogatories showered on him by Townsend, the latter replied evasively; which although it served to irritate, speedily convinced him that his hopes had not been altogether groundless.

Chafed by the obduracy of the drogher captain, he turned angrily away, when he bethought him that the latter was as yet ignorant of the consequences resulting from the sailor's disappearance.

"Do you know that Gomez has been imprisoned on a charge of murdering that man?" he enquired, resuming the conversation.

"No, murder!" the mulatto exclaimed, passing his hand to his flushed brow.

"Yes, and Leonordo is his accuser."

"Leonardo! ha! I see! Can I depend on your honour that no measures shall—"

"Yes, yes! one word will blot out all remembrance of it; be quick for Heaven's sake!"

"In a word then, he's alive and in St. Thomas—"

"A thousand thanks," said Townsend, cutting short the exculpatory language he was about to utter. "Your presence will be required at the town an hour hence," he added, stepping into his boat.

"I shall be there," was the reply, as the oars dashed into the water.

Leon had, in the meantime, deemed

it prudent to evacuate, leaving the family to welcome Townsend's return by unrestrained expressions of deep-felt gratitude.

The second morning after the arrival of the "Lizard," the sun shot into the clear heavens in unsullied glory. All moving matter seemed rife with more than ordinary action. The margin of the bay was lined with people of all classes: females decked out in gala dresses flitted on the beach, while boats passed to and from the shore. A shoal of dolphins, leaving their deeper hiding places, cut the smooth surface of the bay, in quest of the timid flying fish, springing to the air for safety; while farther out a shoal of porpoises turned up their glistening sides to catch the fast caresses of the welcome "god of day." Flags suspended from the masts and rigging of the brig, fluttered gaily in the higher air moving in fitful currents. On deck all was busy preparation—boat after boat conveying guests, came and went till the decks were thronged.

All eyes were bent towards the shore, where presently a youthful pair dashed into view at a rapid pace, followed by a few of their more intimate acquaintances, closed in by a company of slaves.

As Townsend handed his bride on board, the signal gun bellowed out its welcome; and the whole party broke into an extemporaneous lyric, in praise of the many virtues of Juana.

It is time to inform the reader that in the West Indies, and among the foreign islands more especially, many tales are told of treasures deposited in the earth by the former scourges of the ocean; and that many a hope is harboured by the natives—at once a proof and cause of the low state of their moral energies—that their devotion to the "blind goddess" may one day be rewarded by their possession. Dreamers are consequently numerous, but they are always careful to conceal their ærial information, on the absorbing principle of selfishness, and partly from the fear of ridicule; which, such is the inconsistency of human nature, would be showered on them