

eaten with the juice of the sugar cane. Both sexes are what would be termed good looking but particularly the men; and the females whether in the presence of their husbands or not are much more decorous and reserved to strangers, than the Musquito Ladies. Polygamy to a certain extent is allowed in this country; each man may have four wives; and by a singular law which exists here the youngest wife has one half of all the husband possesses.—As far as could be discovered the natives of this country do not seem to have any idea of Religion. When one of them dies, the relatives sit up for several nights watching the Corpse, during which time they sing and howl in a frightful manner. In the coffin along with the deceased a quantity of provisions are deposited, as they say to prevent the evil spirits from taking away the body before interment.

The inhabitants of this territory being thinly scattered in small parties over a great extent, no means of exactly ascertaining its population occurred. Perhaps about 10,000 men capable of bearing arms might be raised—the greater part of them equipt with bows and arrows, although some of them have English Muskets.

Nature appears to have placed several unsuperable barriers against this country ever becoming a place of importance; either for itself, or for its trade with other countries. The Mahogany either at Black river or the Cape, is far inferior in quality to that brought from Honduras, and were it as good the long extent of inland carriage it has to bear would enhance its value too much for the British Market: it ought also to be kept in mind that the mahogany is the only natural production of the country which is of value in a commercial view. But these though sufficient to prevent is success are not the only obstacles to the trade with this territory. All mariners who have been on this coast agree in describing it as the most dangerous shore for shipping they have ever have visited. There is not through its whole extent, a safe port or harbour to which a vessel can run for shelter, or a place where she can put in for a supply of fresh water with the exception of the harbour at Cape Gracias a Dios; and this circumstance alone, on a coast particularly liable during all seasons of the year, to hurricanes forms an objection to its commerce which cannot be overcome. This is no exaggeration of the case. A few years ago, one large vessel made the attempt off Patook river, and after succeeding so far as to get about half a cargo was compelled to cut her cables and run.

For the purposes of Agriculture the Musquito country is equally ill adapted as for commerce. The shore is low swampy and exceedingly unhealthy. The cotton tree does not arrive at perfection, neither does the Coffee or Coco although of the latter a small quantity might be procured. One gentleman from Jamaica made an attempt to form a plantation on this coast some years ago, and after expending several thousand pounds in the speculation was obliged to abandon it, as totally impracticable.

I shall now Mr. Editor conclude this account with a few additional remarks respecting His Majesty, the King of the Musquito nation.—These were furnished by a gentlemen who resided for five weeks in constant habits of the closest intimacy with him and will tend to show