

Smith) as witnesses to the transactions. It is hardly necessary to add that it is upon this document that the sales of land have been effected, the loan raised, and the whole proceeding carried on.

As soon as Sir Gregor had obtained the King's signature to the second deed as above mentioned, he left the Musquito country, and it does not appear he had been ever there either before or since that period. The next account that is heard of him is at St. Thomas in the West Indies, where he made several sales of land; and from thence returned to Scotland till the summer of 1822.

During this interval, no doubt with the design of attracting the public attention to the scheme, two pamphlets appeared in London, giving very glorious and attractive accounts of the Poyais country—and setting forth in the most seductive terms the advantages of soil, climate and situation it possessed. The truths these contained were testified by affidavits purporting to be taken in London by Mr. Bagas and Captain Smith, the two gentlemen whose names appeared as witnesses to the deed upon which Sir Gregor acted—and whom it is said were actually witnesses to the true deed which the Musquito King had signed.* The effect of these publications, completely answered the intention they were designed for; public interest was excited and confidence established in favour of the scheme, and upon the strength of the affidavits it was so managed that the deed was enrolled in chancery, which at once stamped its validity in the opinion of all.

The next step was to raise the loan.—This was soon accomplished; Sir Gregor having got the means provided for commencing it, and money being plentiful at the time, nothing more than a few respectable names at the top of the list was required to get it taken up. The amount was limited to £200,000, all of which was rapidly subscribed for and 15 per cent actually paid in upon this imaginary grant of land, by a great number of the stockholders.

A vessel was next advertised to sail for this land of promise, which had for richness of soil and quality of climate been trumpeted forth as unequalled by any other country; and people came flocking from all quarters anxious to obtain passages out. Among others, many respectable families relinquished their prospects and pursuits, and came up from Scotland wishful to embrace the earliest opportunity of sailing for the celebrated Poyais territory. There perhaps never was a scheme, entered into with so great and general an avidity since the celebrated Darien settlement.† Lands which had hitherto sold for 2s. 6d. per acre, suddenly rose to 4s. 6d. Sir Gregor assumed the title of "Cacique of Poyais"—appointed the various officers of his court—conferring on some of the chief, the title of "Knights of the green cross;" and assumed all the consequence of a petty prince.

* It has been since stated that Mr. Bagas is a native of the United States, and was at the period these pamphlets were written, in Carliagena, in South America, and never saw England—while Captain Smith, the other witness is said to have denied that he ever saw or witnessed such a deed.

† See No. XII. Vol. II. for an account of this scheme.