

himself out in a blue coat with brass buttons, tie a fancy coloured garter round his knee, and stalk forth with all the dignity of an Indian chief—at once the admiration and envy of all beholders.

Now John in his youth had been the terror of all the neighbors on account of his great strength and courage, and they had often appealed to him to decide their quarrels, which thankless task he had sometimes undertaken to settle by the gentle persuasion of a strong arm backed by a powerful bulldog.

Attempts had been made at various times to get hold of his island, which was not very large, but always without success, for his dog was ever on the alert; and that sagacious animal always barked very loud whenever an enemy came near. Once, however, John came very near being despoiled by a Spanish merchant, who lived on the opposite shore, and who at the time was powerful and wealthy. He, thinking to take him unawares, sent a number of men in boats to dispossess him of his island,—and no doubt thought he had a sure thing of it; but fortunately for John the dog barked before they could get to shore, which awakened him, he being asleep at the time. So he jumped up, and hearing their "war song," soon collected a number of his tenantry, and set out in some of his small boats to meet them; when after some hard knocks he had the good fortune to swamp several of them, which frightened the others to such an extent that they made home again; but before they could get back most of them were lost in a storm.

Only once since that time had John been in any danger, though often threatened, and that was when another neighbour of his named "Bony," who had boned a great deal from other people, collected a number of men together for the purpose of making a raid on him; but seeing that his dog maintained his usual vigilance, thought better of it and staid at home.

Now a short distance across the water from John's Island lived a former protege of his, named Jonathau. Jonathan, who was a young man, had been educated in his household and had served in his employ, but upon attaining a good knowledge of business had leased certain estates on the mainland belonging to John, who owned a large amount of property in various parts. These estates though uncultivated were very valuable, and only required a person who understood their management to make them produce rich crops of sugar, cotton and tobacco; and Jonathan being a shrewd man soon turned them to account by bringing across some of John's tenantry to work them. In appearance Jonathan was tall and