

ner by many who felt ashamed at having been engaged in the business. The Land Office however was still kept open, and they were endeavouring to sell the land. Frequent advertisements and accounts of vessels sailing were also circulated through the medium of the public prints.

In the early part of this narration it was mentioned that two pamphlets giving an account of the Poyais country in the most glowing colours had appeared; by which means the scheme was first brought into public notice, and on the faith of which description many had been induced to embark in it. How far these were correct we had learned to our sad experience; and may be gathered by the following facts which either came under our actual observation while in that country, or have been detailed upon unquestionable authority.

During our whole journey from Black River to the Cape, with the exception of some pine forests, we did not discover a tree of any description fit for any purpose but firewood. The land as far as we explored was either sandy, or a swamp covered with jungle, so thick as to preclude the possibility of clearing it, with the hope of reaping a profitable return. The natives raise but little from the soil, consisting of Indian Corn, Plantains and Bannanas—the two last forming the principal part of their food; along with fish of different kinds, with which their rivers and lakes abound. Game is also to be found in this country, but unless for selling it, or for some particular purpose, the natives are too indolent to hunt for it, themselves, and the miriads of vermine which infest the woods on this coast renders it impossible for Europeans to enter them in search of game.

The Musquitos are an ugly race of people of a dirty copper colour. The females while in the presence of their husbands, of whom they stand in great awe are particularly shy to strangers; but when alone with them are quite the reverse. The men are, good natured, and ready enough to oblige, provided the doing so does not interfere with the natural indolence of their habits. When under the influence of liquor they are apt to be quarrelsome, and are so inordinately fond of Spirits that many instances of their drinking to such an excess as to occasion their death, have been known.

The Caribs who now form a part of the inhabitants of this country, are the decendants of the tribe which originally occupied the island of St. Vincents. From this last place they were expelled by the negroes who escaped, after the wreck of a slave ship on that Island about the year 1680. They first took refuge in the Island of Bonacca, and from thence crossed over and settled near the Cape. Although these have now become subjects of the Musquito nation, they still retain their prestine customs and manners; and avoid as far as possible all intercourse with the natives; a feeling which has operated in extending their settlement to the north. These Caribs are a far more industrious people than the Musquitos, pay more attention to Agriculture, and have some very excellent plantations. The chief productions of these are Rice and the Sugar Cane, the former of a very inferior quality, and the latter although growing very plentiful does not come to perfection. Their chief article of diet, and what almost constitutes, their whole sustenance, is a species of bread called Casada,