

JAMAICA

BY ARTHUR LAING

AS I HAVE FOUND IT.

To commence where I left off, and explain the meaning of the quotation, "And only man is vile." When we landed we found a host of girls and women, somebody's wives, mothers and sisters, who were acting as "beasts of burden," carrying coal by the bushel on their heads, and their clothes!—oh, horrors!—rags filth and dirt, and I can assure you that in many cases even the rags were scarce enough; in fact, I have seen shirts on men's backs that were simply a mass of strings, and the strings were so small and the holes so large that if the thing were thrown down I would not consider it fit to pick up to wipe the grease off my gasoline engine. The men, women and girls go barefooted almost entirely. Many of them have done so much of this "beast of burden" work their heads and faces are actually beastly, and I have the best authority for saying that morally they are very low indeed. As for their speech, if it were to save your life you could not understand one-third of what they say when conversing with one another. The white population is very much in the minority. There are very few white people, and, if reports are correct, I fear a great proportion of the white population are little, if any, better morally than the black. We had a sermon to "men only" in the English church a week ago Sunday by the pastor, whom I consider one of the truest and noblest Christian ministers that it has ever been my pleasure to meet, and his remarks left no doubt in my mind that many of his hearers were far from being "angels of light."

The nights here are delightful; in

fact, they could scarcely be more ideal. The air is warm, but there is always a breeze at night, and the windows are left wide open, but the days are much too hot for my comfort, though I am standing it O.K. The temperature during the day is somewhat similar to our hottest northern weather, and this is said to be the cool season, remember, so it must be hot indeed during July and August. Of course I am right on a level with the sea here; up in the mountains, they say, it is cooler, but, unfortunately for the bee-keeper, the logwood does not grow, I am told, at any great elevation, and a location for an apiary in Jamaica without logwood would, I fear, be like a district for an apiary in Ontario without clover—it would be a very poor affair, indeed.

Jamaica has been described as a "bee-keepers' paradise," but I am becoming more and more satisfied every day that we have in Canada a better chance for success as bee-keepers than we would have in Jamaica. I do not believe that the annual average yield would be over 100 pounds per colony; in fact, was told to-day by a gentleman who has 400 hives of bees that his best average in any year had been 84 pounds per colony, and last year, after the hurricane, he only averaged 42 pounds, and this honey, mind you, will not bring more than from 2½¢ to 3¢ per pound above cost of package, and out of this the expenses of the apiary must be paid, so that the apiarist here must keep at least three times as many bees as our Canadian apiarist in order to make the same money; then just think of three times the number of hives, barrels, extractors, honey knives, smokers, etc., that have to be bought and the extra help that must be paid for. Lumber for hives costs from \$50 to \$60 per 1,000 feet. Money can undoubtedly be made here by bee-keeping, but, in all sincerity, I say again, we Canadian bee-keepers have a better