

served; and where the happy being, a shade or two removed from the white man, looks with a consciousness of his vast superiority down the long line of dusky distinction, till his brain reels at the immensity of his elevation.

Here the beautiful mustee girl, with long raven hair, falling in soft luxuriant curls over her full round shoulders; her bright black eye and pearly teeth in admirable keeping with the soft cheek in which the rose seems striving for mastery over the field lily, producing a warm tint—to use a simile often borrowed, but seldom with more impartiality to the subject of illustration than in this instance—like the first impression of the sun on a full-grown peach, mingled among the darkest sons of negroland.

The sports were at their height; and but half the sun's disk, red and fiery, remained above the horizon, when a young man in the garb of his profession, which was that of a sailor, and mounted on one of the tough ponys so abundant in this island, urged his way through the crowd towards the scene just described. There was an air of superiority about him that plainly betokened the rank he had attained to in his calling, and a bold openness of countenance and symmetrical display of muscular proportions sufficiently evinced that he could disclaim affinity with the attenuated and sinister looking masters of the soil.

He seemed to have turned aside in passing through the town from mere curiosity, for after casting a cursory glance at the merry-makers, he drew in his bridle hand, and was turning from the spot when his eyes suddenly rested on a female seated among the more select of the spectators. There they remained as if spell-bound, until the crowd dispersed; when first becoming sensible that the shades of night were settling rapidly, he struck his spirited horse and dashed off towards the bay.

It may be necessary to mention here, that most of the small towns in this island stand back about two miles from the coast, and maintain their intercourse with the sea by means of agencies established at the nearest harbours. The

inconvenience of this arrangement seldom fails to excite the curiosity of the traveller, and is the result of the ravages committed by the numerous bands of pirates that formerly infested the Caribbean Sea, and who frequently, so quick were their movements, returned to their ships loaded with booty before the dwellers on the coast were aware of their loss.

The approach to Naguabo from the bay of the same name is through a narrow valley, encompassed by irregular hills, some of which overlook a wide extent of country, unsurpassed perhaps for its fertility, by any in the West Indies.

Few would have given a second look at her who thus absorbed the mental vision of the sailor. There were others present with greater pretensions to beauty—hers was a face to interest, if at all at first sight, from its excessive paleness, which engendered a feeling of pity in the mind of the superficial observer: but this gave way to a warmer passion before the flood of sensibility that poured through the large dark orbs which met the gaze of the stranger, as if with a confiding appeal to the nobleness of a kindred spirit.—It was not weakness, or a sudden freak of fancy, or a blind and wanton surrender of the affections to a nameless object, to be forgotten when no longer seen, that influenced the seemingly bold conduct of the lady. It seemed as if the pulsations of the soul had suddenly harmonized with something long sought after. Hers was a look that leaves on the mind an indelible impress, which the revolutions of time may obscure, but can never blot out. Day after day at the same hour they met as on the first evening, until the events which form the subject of this chapter took place.

It was midnight, and the hum of voices at the little bay of Naguabo had died away. The intrigues, the jealousies, and the discordant passions that disturbed the little community had happily terminated for a season. The full moon, far advanced in her course, no sooner shook off one cloudy mask, than ano-