

called the bamba; it is a bent bow, about the thickness of a finger, with a strand or split cane extended across it; one end of the string is applied to the teeth, where also it is beaten with a slender stick. The other end of the bow is held in the left hand, which also presses against the string a clasp-knife, and occasionally withdraws it. The tones produced by this enlarged variety of Jew's-harp are few, but inexpressibly sweet and wild. To the bamba the negroes dance, with the accompaniment of the drum, and sing while playing on the dulcimer, or shallow box with unequal reeds fixed across the lid of it by cords elevated on bridges,

"Deem our nation brutes no longer,  
Till some reason ye shall find  
Worthier of regard and stronger  
Than the colour of our kind.  
Slaves of gold, whose sordid dealings  
Tarnish all your boasted powers,  
Prove that ye have human feelings  
Ere you proudly question ours."

The lower class of whites, or monteros, who inhabit the country, are hospitable and obliging, though not very strict in morals; for in some remote parts the abominable crime of incest prevails. This evil may proceed from the detestable influence of slavery; and from the country being so thinly peopled that religious instruction is difficult to be procured,—and still more, it is to be feared, from the influx of foreigners (as I said before) having tended to make them despise the little religion they possess. The higher ranks are disposed to be very friendly to strangers; and many of them, par-