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## THE NEGRO EQUALLED BY FEW EUROPEANS.

*(Continued from page 458.)*

SUCH were the emotions which agitated me, when new hopes darted into my mind. 'Why,' cried I, 'should I go so far in search of that which Providence has brought within my reach? Yes, it is Providence which for me has conducted this French vessel into the port. These are the friends of Dumont. They adore the same God! Like him, without doubt, they demand virtues of the Supreme Being. They must possess pity. They do possess it. I will not doubt. I will recount my love and my misfortunes. They will be touched with them. There are people, friends of ours, on this coast; they will land me among these people. I shall again see Amelina. Yes, it is heaven which enlightens me. Heaven points out the hand which must save me.'

Suddenly my resolution was irrevocably taken: and my mind was entirely occupied in the means of executing it. The return of hope had nearly restored my usual gaiety: my guards perceived it, and congratulated me on the change. They were far from penetrating the cause. From that day I began to join in their dances and pleasures. They saw it with joy. They believed my chagrin had ceased, and I perceived that they were less watchful of me. In Europe so sudden a change had created suspicion; but not so among negroes. Happy enough never to have need of dissimulation, they judge of the sentiments of the soul by the exterior of the man.

I felt all the advantage I might draw from the conduct I now pursued: and I resolved to pursue it till the negroes who surrounded me should be lulled into perfect security. During the day, I laboured with them in Daniel's gardens. In the

evening I mingled my voice in their songs. At night, I affected, when I slept not, the profound sleep of a man exempt from all care. They thought me reconciled to slavery. Many of those, who till now had slept in my chamber, absented themselves to visit their families. In a short time, I saw myself almost as free as I should have been in my own country: and in truth, but for my fatal impatience, I approached that liberty so necessary to my being. But it was reserved for me, not to learn the happiness which awaited me, till I had bitterly expiated my destructive imprudence.

Time advanced. I resolved no longer to delay my departure; and I chose the approaching night for the execution of my project. All my guards were absent, except one, who remained more to amuse than to guard me. We supped together. Nothing had been refused me which could render my life pleasant; and the food, esteemed most delicate by us, was lavished on my table. The fondness of negroes for palm wine is known, and I had no difficulty in making my guard drink of it to excess. Soon the liquor plunged him into a heavy sleep. It might be midnight when I left the house. There was no moon, but the weather was mild: and the stars, much more luminous in our regions than in Europe, shed a sufficient light to enable me to distinguish objects. I easily scaled the enclosures of the gardens. I swiftly ran down the hill, and was soon on the shore of the sea.

I judged, as accurately as the obscurity of the night would permit, that the vessel lay at the distance of nearly a quarter of a league. I knew my own powers; the space gave me no uneasiness. I was about