

grown in Spanish America, and are well adapted for use in warm climates. The finer descriptions command a high price; some being valued as high as 180 dollars, or about 36 guineas; cigar cases are also made out of the same kind of grass dyed and worked into pretty patterns.

St. Thomas is the great rendezvous for all the steamers on the West India route. During our stay we were several times aroused by the boom of the gun announcing the arrival of different steamers; first, perhaps, the one due from the Gulf, then the boat from the Havana would come steaming into harbour, and so on, till the little haven was quite alive with chimneyed vessels. Such steamers only remain till the English mail is received, when, each having received its bags, away they start for their respective destinations once more.

Having remained at St. Thomas about two days, and the boat for the Island route which I was about to take having shipped her mail bags, we started, having bid adieu and exchanged, I can't say how many, pasteboards with our *compagnons de voyage* of the ocean.

The run to Trinidad, which was my destination, is most enjoyable. The steamer touches at almost all of the islands, if only to land the mails and passengers. Being distant from each other only a few hours' sail, and some even less, the constant variety was quite charming. When the steamer approaches, she generally fires