

governor to clear a spot of ground sufficiently large to admit of their tents being erected; for "let well or woe betide" we determined to await the decree of Providence. Another party, along with some Caribs and natives were employed to land the cargo, consisting of provisions, &c. &c. In this undertaking we were equally unfortunate as in others. The sea breeze set in and blew so strong, hardly any thing could be got on shore without being damaged with salt water. This continued for four successive days, so that but a small portion of our provisions could be landed, during that time; and immediately after a hurricane came on which compelled the vessel to quit the coast with all the remainder on board, and very serious apprehensions were entertained that she would not be able to return. The vessel was compelled to bear away from the coast on the very day that our men had completed clearing a space for us to pitch our tents upon, so that although we were now provided with some shelter from the weather, for 12 tents were soon erected, other and more disastrous evils seemed to threaten us. None but those who have been in similar situations can form an idea of our state.—Landed on a desert coast in a season the worst in the year, and exposed to a climate against the effects of which none of our constitutions had been fortified—almost all our provisions gone in the vessel, which had been compelled by the stress of weather to abandon us; our condition was deplorable in the extreme. While a faint hope of the return of the ship was entertained, youth and vigor kept us alive—and we went on clearing while the Caribs or natives could be hired to assist us. Fortunately the dispositions of those were friendly towards us as appeared from their exterior demeanor; but we were well aware that inwardly they regarded us with feelings of suspicion; and as our little stock of money was fast evanishing we foresaw that we could not long depend on their assistance.

Still the farce of forming a government was kept up by those at the head of affairs, and much to the credit of the hardy old gentleman who acted as superintendant. He proceeded both by precept and example in such a way as to give encouragement to the rest, while he supported the dignity of the situation he had to fill. With the same degree of consequence as if the famous town of St. Joseph had been actually in existence, he issued an order for a store-house to be built, a measure justifiable on many grounds, but more particularly as indicating the design of making a permanent residence, and of course calculated to remove the fears, and fix the resolution of those who were desirous of abandoning the project. To be sure, there was something bordering on the ludicrous to see the first officers of the intended court of the Cacique of Poyais, resorting to the store (a bamboo hut covered with long grass) for their rations of beef and flour. To see them discharging the multiple duties of their own cooks, their own waiters and their own washer-women. While they had during the day to endure the broiling heat of the sun, and in the night to retire to a tent resembling a baker's oven half heated, and swarming with vermine of every description which infests that coast. Upon the whole it was a scene of distress hardly to be equalled, and was only borne by many from the exertions of our good old governor (Colonel Hall,) above mentioned made, to keep up our spirits in the hopes of the arrival of a