

sure I found there all my effects; they were considerable, but were dear to me only as I had received them entirely from the goodness of Ferdinand. I was now convinced, that I had quitted Urban forever. I found myself with friends, who would protect me till the return of Ferdinand. It was the sole wish of my heart.

For the first time, I suspected that Urban had sold me. 'The despicable Urban,' said I, 'respects nothing; to whom has he sold me? To Honoria's father? Has he, then, such little sensibility, as to brave the silent reproaches of his son? of her, who must be his daughter? and, in short of myself.'

A domestic drew me from these reflexions. Honoria demanded my presence. Her father was in the room with her. 'My friend,' said this respectable old man, 'let not the proposition I have to make, alarm you. In despite of my age, my credit, and the general esteem with which I am honoured, you could scarcely remain here without danger. It is your interest and our's, that those, who know you, and Urban above all, should lose every trace of you for some time.' 'What can this mean?' said I to myself: 'is it not then to them he has sold me?'

'Fifteen leagues from hence,' continued M. de C——, 'I have a plantation at the foot of the mountains, which separate us from the Spanish part of this country. It is a solitary place; there you will be far from all observation. You will be undisturbed, and at liberty to yield yourself, without reserve, to your taste for study. I have taken particular care of that object; and nothing shall be wanting to render you comfortable. My daughter and I will sometimes visit you. Time will slide away: it will lead Ferdinand back to us; then this species of exile will cease, and affairs will take a very different aspect.' 'Whatever it may cost me,' said I 'to be separated from such friends, command: I am ready to obey you.' 'Well,' replied he, 'take a short repose. A negro, who is in my greatest confidence, has received my orders. You will depart together before day. I have charged him with my instructions for the overseer of this plantation. You will receive from him the same attentions which you would here with us.' 'But,' said I, smiling, 'have you not the complaisance to discover a secret, which begins to interest me? May I not know——? To what purpose?' said Honoria: 'to torment you, without any benefit. At a future day, you shall laugh at what now afflicts you. I then leave to friends, who know events better than you, the care of guiding you.'

Compelled to silence by this answer, I kissed the hand of Honoria, and took my leave of her father. 'Be not uneasy,' said he, as he embraced me: 'while I live, while my daughter shall live, we will preserve you, for the sake of Ferdinand.'

At three in the morning, the negro awakened me. We slept into a post-chaise and departed. We were at the distance of three leagues from the city, when day appeared. My conductor was pleased with the speed we had made. He feared (as I have since known) being pursued by those from whom the carriage, although with M. de C——'s arms on it, would not have been able to protect me. This negro was an honest man, and very worthy of his master's attachment. He was born on the Gold coast, and had been brought a child to St. Domingo. The mother of M. de C—— had bought him, and made a present of him to her son. They were of the same age. M. de C—— afterwards went into the East India company's service. This negro followed him in various campaigns; and, in one engagement, was happy enough to save his master's life. His immediate liberty had been his just recompense; but he had no ambition beyond the happiness of passing his life with the man whom he regarded as a friend, rather than a master.

We arrived the same day at the plantation. My conductor delivered his instructions to the overseer, and enjoined him to adhere strictly to them. I was shown into a very agreeable apartment; and, after some refreshment, laid me down to repose. My conductor, who had taken his leave of me, set off, early the next morning, for the city.

I passed near five months in this abode with some tranquility. On one side was presented to the view a considerable chain of mountains, and vast shades of dark forests; the asylum of negroes, who sometimes seek for liberty far from their tyrants, and find only famine and death: on the other side, a sandy, desert plain, which separated these possessions from other cantons. Thus was formed a narrow tract of land, which was watered by a stream that flowed from the mountains. The physical position of this plantation, the burning sand and stormy mountains that enclosed it, even the awful silence which hung over the place, all seemed to have detached from the rest of nature the field of a virtuous man.

Here, for the first time, I saw Theodore de C——, the unworthy brother of Honoria. Here, far from his father's eyes, he came, with the companions of his riots, to give free scope to his irregular passions; but