

which, meeting with a suitable return, fixed his fate. The parents were now on each side consulted, and as no reasonable objection would be offered, an union not gilded with gold, but blended with every prospect of happiness soon took place, and after remaining one year as agreed, at the Rectory, Colville with his bride and infant-son embarked to take possession of his paternal estate in the West Indies. While at home, and on their passage out, Julia and her husband had frequently conversed on the state of slavery ; her heart ever sensibly alive to the sufferings of her fellow creatures had imbibed the softest feeling of sympathy for the wrongs, and compassion for the pictured privations of that race, with whom she was in all probability destined to pass the remainder of her life. She had learned to consider them an oppressed people, and that impression was sufficient to awaken in her benevolent mind feelings of deep commiseration, and many were the resolutions she had formed to ameliorate, and add comfort to their condition.

With heartfelt gratification however, she soon discovered that the enthusiasm natural to her character had portrayed the picture of an ideal rather than of their real situation. She found them generally a cheerful people, gay in their character ; well fed, and, in infancy, sickness and infirmity, nursed with great kindness ; the hours of their labour were limited, and this was much less burdensome in its nature also, than that which falls to the lot of many of the class of peasantry in Europe. They had each a separate house containing two rooms built with a kind of wattle, thatched with plantain leaves, many of them possessing the comfort of extreme cleanliness, and neatly furnished—shaded from the scorching sun by the breadfruit, mango, or cabbage tree, which contribute greatly towards the support as well as comfort of the sable inhabitant. Each had also a provision ground, which he cultivated for his individual advantage ; disposing of the produce as he pleased at the public market.

Julia and her husband would with delight ride round their