



IV.—*The Jamaica Maroons—How they came to Nova Scotia—  
How they left it.*

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The echoes of the terror caused by the Maroons in Jamaica still lingered when I was a boy, but they must long since have died away, as it is nearly a century since these negroes were removed to Nova Scotia and thence transferred to Sierra Leone.

For the early history of the Maroons I have relied chiefly on the account by Bryan Edwards and on that by Dallas. The one was published in 1796, in one volume, and is, in reality, an official answer by the legislature of Jamaica to charges made against the authorities in the island; the other, largely, if not wholly, a compilation from statements made to Dallas by Mr. Quarrell, the commissioner sent, during the final outbreak, to Cuba for dogs and slave-hunters, and subsequently in charge of the Maroons on their removal to Nova Scotia. It was published in 1803, in two volumes, much of it consisting of an eulogium of Mr. Quarrell, to whom is ascribed the chief honour of restoring peace to the island, but his statements on that and other subjects are not to be relied on entirely. For the history from 1796, I have consulted the original correspondence contained in the Public Record Office, London.

The origin of the name "Maroon" has been the subject of much controversy. Long, in 1774, calls them "hog hunters," from *Marano*, a young pig. The *Encyclopedie*, quoted by Edwards, derives it from *simaran*, an ape, from their hiding in the woods. Lucas, in his recent work, "A Historical Geography of the British Colonies," says it is an abbreviation of *cimaron*, derived from the Spanish or Portuguese *cima*, "a mountain top," and refers to the "Encyclopedia Britannica" for further information, but that work throws little light on the subject. These various derivations depend almost entirely on the statements of early adventurers, who are not greatly to be trusted in matters of philology. I am inclined to think, but I give the suggestion with reserve, that the name is a direct application of the word *marron*, "a wild or stray dog." Littré, in his great French dictionary, gives the name as *negre marron*, "a fugitive slave who betakes himself to the woods," an explanation which might suit any of the derivations. The question is one of no great importance, but it may be noticed that the Malagasie slaves in Mauritius, imported by the Dutch, were known, when they fled to the woods, by the same name as those in Jamaica.