

left at Cape Gracias a Dios. They had heretofore passed the time in a state of comfort compared with that of their fellow travellers at Black River, their hut affording them a partial shelter, and having abundance of provisions which had been landed from the vessel as formerly mentioned. They were however anxious to hear of the fate of their companions, and at last their worst fears were confirmed by the receipt of letters, detailing their miseries in the most afflicting terms. On these letters being shown to the King, it is but a just tribute to the goodness of his disposition to say that he sincerely commiserated the unfortunate fate of these poor sufferers. Kindly offered his assistance and proposed to set out to Black River to give them all the help in his power, a resolution which was accelerated by the arrival of Col. Hall, who came again, personally to solicit his Majesty's aid. The next day his Majesty and the Colonel, accompanied by two of those who had been formerly left at the Cape, set out on this charitable mission, leaving only one person (the writer of these accounts) at the Cape, in charge of the remaining stores. During the occurrence of these events the vessel had sailed from the Cape for the Bay of Huuduras for a Cargo; and as his Majesty previous to her sailing, had continued to insist on us either quitting his territory or becoming his subjects, it was thought prudent to despatch one of our party with the vessel who might represent our condition at Hunduras. The gentleman who was selected for this purpose, had come out as the Banker, and brought along with him a large sum of money in Poyais Bank Bills, which unfortunately bore no value in that country but as pictures for children to play with, a paper currency being unknown to the natives.

His representation of the unfortunate condition of the settlers, combined with the knowledge they had of the sickly climate in that quarter had the proper effect at Hunduras—and Mr. Bennet (a gentleman residing there) immediately dispatched two schooners, to Black River to convey the poor sufferers and their stores to Hunduras where they might have the benefit of medical aid. The arrival of these vessels was the most welcome sight that had been seen at the settlement of Black River. Before they could reach it, ten had fallen victims to disease and had been consigned to their graves; and had it not been for this timely assistance all the rest must soon have shared the same fate. One unfortunate fellow who had come out to fill the station of Shoe-maker to the Cacique in a fit of despondency put an end to his existence by shooting himself.

The poor wretches who were able to crawl on board gladly embraced this opportunity of quitting the scene of misery and distress, and such (of which there was a great number) as were unable from decrease to assist themselves were carried on board these schooners.—With as little delay as possible, a third Schooner was sent for those whom the first two could not carry off; and ultimately all were embarked, with the exception of the Colonel and the Surgeon, and a few others. The gentleman who had been left at Cape Gracias a Dios, hearing of the proceedings at Black River, and learning his companions were quitting that place as fast as they could get away for Hunduras, determined to join them. With this intention he left the Cape