

could be effected without any danger. Accordingly Col. Hall, the Secretary, and the men chosen to reconnoitre the land, embarked in the boat and proceeded on shore amidst the hearty cheers and joyful exclamations of the remainder on board. The boat now passed the surf without any damage, but not without the impression of fear upon those who had never before experienced the effects of a heavy swell and a high surf rolling over a bar of not more than three feet water; to such, of course, the scene was new and not entirely destitute of alarm; but it was surmounted, and the old creek leading to where the town of St. Joseph's formerly stood was reached in safety.

The appearance of the country at this place was very attractive when viewed from the vessel. The cocoa-nut and mangroves were in full bloom; and in some places the cotton tree towering above the rest displayed its beautiful foliage in contrast with other trees which surrounded it to great advantage; while the lofty mountains rising high in the interior and frowning proudly over the flat country which stretched between them and the shore added much to the grandeur and effect of the scene.

As we advanced to within about a mile of the mouth of the river, we descried a miserable hut belonging to one of the Americans, and soon after two others belonging to the same people appeared in view; which together constituted all that was to be seen of the famous town of St. Joseph, of which such "flattering tales" had been told us. To our enquiries concerning the town (or rather the spot where it had been, for at present it seemed "vanished into empty air") the Americans replied that it was now too late to find its site, but promised to accompany us in the morning—and in answer to our enquiries respecting the nature of the soil we were told that it was nothing but impenetrable *jungle* and swamp—information which to our sorrow we soon after found to be correct.

It was the design of this advanced party who had now landed to avail themselves of such poor accommodations as their miserable huts could furnish for the night, and commence landing the remainder next morning; but to their surprise, and the subsequent regret of others, they soon saw the other boats leaving the vessel, and making for the beach, loaded with men, women, and children. This step was a measure of the Captain's, who determined to avail himself of the favourable state of the weather (it being then a dead calm) to land as many as possible that evening. On the arrival of this unwelcome addition to our numbers, it was found that the huts were inadequate to contain one fifth of us, and we were reduced to the necessity of spending the night in the open air huddled together in one promiscuous mass. It was now that a sense of our cheerless condition began to break upon us; and to the lively feeling and buoyant hopes which had hitherto prevailed, there succeeded a silent but dissatisfied gloom depicted in every face; and a sense of despondency from which neither individual nor collected energy, could rouse our party. During the night the rain fell in torrents, and many for the first time in their lives, had to bear all the distressing sensations of spending a dreary night amidst myriads of mosquitoes, sandflies and gnats.

Next morning one party of us was sent under the directions of the