

wretched condition of their inhabitants. These Americans received with surprise our account of having come out at the request of Sir G. McGregor, and informed us that he had not fulfilled the conditions he agreed upon with the King.

The canoe used by these people was formed of the cedar tree and of a sufficient size to contain twenty men, but which they managed with great dexterity. While we were in conversation with them, the lowering aspect of the skies began to encrease and every thing portended a storm. It was not long before we witnessed it in reality. The canoe, to avoid the approaching gale, left the vessel and made for the shore. At the same moment the wind veered round to the north, and when it blows from this point no vessel can live on the coast. Before the canoe could reach the shore it began to blow fresh, and the wind soon after encreasing to a gale, prevented our landing. At the same time our vessel parted from her anchors, and we were very near being driven on the coast, when all our hopes and fears would have been brought to a speedy termination. Fortunately for us at the moment, the wind shifted a little, and the captain having given orders to reef the sails, the ship fell away about 4 points, which enabled us to weather Cape Cameron. This being done, we lay too during the remainder of that day and the following night. After this the Captain of the vessel represented in strong terms to Colonel Hall, who was acting as Governor for the party, the impracticability of landing on a coast where there appeared no harbour, and the distress and danger the people of the settlement might be exposed to, there being no town as it was represented to them before leaving Britain. It was at least agreed that we should for the present make for the Island of Bonacca, a place formerly inhabited by the Caribs, but now only the haunt of wild animals. Here ten days were spent in watering, and recruiting our strength and spirits. This Island abounds with game and is surrounded with great quantities of fish, of which a large supply was taken, although the extreme heat of the weather during the day precluded many from sharing in these sports. I must here remark, that although we had been baffled with stormy weather, and tantalized with uncertain and contradictory reports tending to throw a damp on our ultimate hopes, we had hitherto been peculiarly fortunate on the score of good health. Notwithstanding the length of time we had been so crowded together in a small vessel, and although we had been in several of the West India islands, not one of the crew or passengers had suffered from sickness up to the period I mention.

After a short delay at this island, with undaunted spirits we again set sail for the coast on which we had before made so narrow an escape from shipwreck, and although contrary winds still prevailed, in the course of four or five days we found ourselves a second time in sight of the Sugar Loaf mountain, and stood in for the land; we had no sooner brought up than our old friends the Americans with some of the natives boarded us, kindly offering to take us on shore with their canoe it being, they said, safer than our boats. This offer however it was thought prudent to decline, as there had been no sea breeze during the day; the shore was perfectly calm and a landing