

which, in dying, as has often been said and sung, exhibit the most vivid and changing tints of green and yellow, but which are of little value as an article of food. As the time hung heavily on us, we amused ourselves in the best way we could; and indeed we had need of all our philosophy, for the passage was protracted to nine weeks. The fare was L.40, and some vessels charge as high as L.60, which is enormous, considering that six weeks are generally sufficient for the passage. In the New York packets, where the accommodation and living are greatly superior, only L.30 are charged, and in other vessels L.20. One consequence of this is, that many persons having business in the West Indies, and even those residing there, when they come home, prefer going by New York, from which to Kingston there is a weekly packet. The British Government may be said to have a monopoly as to passengers. Their packets between Falmouth and St Thomas average a month, and it takes a week more by steam to Kingston. No merchantman is allowed to carry any one who has resided six weeks on the island, unless he has advertised his intention of departing three weeks previously; but the Government packets take all who apply, without asking questions; while the captain of the merchantman and his consignee have to enter surety for L.1000, that they take none without due advertisement. This measure is intended to prevent persons from leaving the island before paying their debts; but, of course, a man in debt is sure to go off by the Government packet. Any creditor can prevent